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CONTENTS

Near East & South Asia

Vol V No 174 *9 September 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 September Middle East and South Asia Review ..... AA 1

ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

Islamic Conference Organization Meets in Turkey ..... CC 1
Evren Inaugurates Meeting *[ANATOLIA]* ..... CC 1
Ozal Addresses Session *[ANATOLIA]* ..... CC 1
Iran Urges Oil Price Rise *[ANATOLIA]* ..... CC 1
Calls for Islamic Common Market *[IRNA]* ..... CC 1

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

'Arafat Meets With Israeli Knesset Members in Geneva *[Paris]* ..... DD 1
Fatah Uprising Criticizes Meeting *[Damascus]* ..... DD 1

ALGERIA

'Arafat Arrives 5 Sep, Received by Messaadia ..... A 1
Bendjedid, 'Arafat, OAU Head Confer ..... A 1
Bendjedid Meets Abdelghani, Sends Message to Mengistu ..... A 1
AL-NASR Condemns Chadian Attack on Libya ..... A 1
Ibrahimi Sees Off Maltese Foreign Minister 4 Sep ..... A 2
Joint Commission With PRC Holds Session ..... A 2
Cooperation Protocol Signed ..... A 2

EGYPT

Mubarak 'Farmer's Day' Speech Views Foreign Ties ..... C 1
Mubarak Departs for Ethiopian Celebration 9 Sep ..... C 2
Talks on Rescheduling Debts to France Open 7 Sep ..... C 2
Agreement Signed on Rescheduling ..... C 2
Al-Sharif Leaves for FRG With Mubarak Message ..... C 2
People's Assembly Speaker Returns From Bucharest ..... C 3
PLO Officials Conclude Visit, Depart Cairo ..... C 3
No 'Promises' From Mubarak, Husayn on Negotiations *[Beirut AL-SAFIR 8 Sep]* ..... C 3
Restrictions on Soviet Embassy Staffing Lifted *[London AL-HAWADITH 28 Aug]* ..... C 3

LIBYA

Reports on Clashes With Chad Over Border Conflict ..... D 1
Armed Forces Command Communique ..... D 1
France Demanded To Return Pilots ..... D 1
Personnel Called to Barracks for 'Higher Training' ..... D 1
Military Industry Students Ordered to Bani Walid ..... D 1
JANA Political Editor Responds to VOA Cast on Chad ..... D 1
JANA Cites Sudanese Prime Minister on Aozou Strip ..... D 2
Memo to UN Rejects U.S. Threats on Arms to Iran ..... D 2
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Sudanese Minister, Message ..... D 2
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives DFLP's Hawatimah ..... D 2
War Liberation Brigade's Khalifah Leaves Tripoli ..... D 2
Sudan's Taj al-Din Departs Tripoli 4 Sep ..... D 2
Cables Thanks to Al-Qadhdhafi ..... D 3

MAURITANIA

CMSN Chairman Receives Libyan Envoy, Message ..... E 1
Ould Taya Leaves for Francophone Summit in Quebec ..... E 1
Returns From Summit 5 Sep ..... E 1
AL-MAJALLAH Reports on Foiled Coup Attempt *[26 Aug-1 Sep]* ..... E 1

MOROCCO

Saudi Defense Minister Continues Visit to Rabat ..... F 1
Watches Military Exercise ..... F 1
Meets With King Hassan *[SPA]* ..... F 1
Issues Statement, Departs 8 Sep ..... F 1
Sources Deny Soldiers To Guard Saudi Shrines ..... F 1
UAE President Arrives on Visit; Met by Crown Prince ..... F 1
Meets Saudi Defense Minister in Rabat *[QNA]* ..... F 1

SUDAN

Al-Mahdi News Conference on Coalition, South ..... G 1
Libyan Forces Reportedly Deployed Inside Border *[Paris]* ..... G 2
Taj al-Din Returns From Libya, Makes Statement ..... G 2
Ugandan President Mediates Between Sudan, SPLM ..... G 2
Parties, Garang Reportedly Meet in Kampala ..... G 3
3 Killed, 8 Injured in Sannar Student Protest ..... G 3
Police Contain Demonstrations ..... G 3
SPLA Radio Reports Attacks in Bahr al-Ghazal ..... G 3

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Urges Talks To Normalize Ties With Libya ..... H 1
Ministers Warn Against 'Preachers of Sedition' ..... H 1
Islamic Tendency Movement Defendants Questioned ..... H 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Source States Only 5 Iranian Diplomats Expelled ..... J 1
Amir, Prime Minister Meet With Libya's Al-Talhi ..... J 1
PDRY Minister Arrives, Comments on Gulf Situation ..... J 1
Foreign Ministry Condemns Chad 'Penetration' of Libya ..... J 2
AL-ANBA' Calls for Effort To 'Liberate' Arabistan *[6 Sep]* ..... J 2

PDRY

DPRK's Yi Chong-ok Leaves for Ethiopia ..... J 2
Culture Minister Leaves for Kuwait, Bulgaria, USSR ..... J 3

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Ties With Iran ..... J 3
YAR Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah 6 Sep ..... J 4
Conveys Salih Message to King ..... J 4
Departs Jeddah 6 Sep ..... J 4
U.S., Egyptian Military Reportedly Deployed *[Tehran]* ..... J 5
Commentary Urges Iranians To Overthrow Ayatollahs ..... J 5

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

President Salih Receives FRG Minister 5 Sep ..... J 6
FRG Minister Leaves Sanaa ..... J 6

IRAQ

Reportage on Gulf War Operations Continues ..... K 1
2 'Large Maritime Targets' Hit ..... K 1
Communique No 2,816 ..... K 1
Iranian Claims on Fighting Denied ..... K 1
Spokesman Denies Plane Downed ..... K 1
Communique No. 2,817 ..... K 1
Military Pledges To Fight With Kuwait Against Iran ..... K 3
Kurdish Anti-Iranian Military Operations Reported ..... K 3
'Aziz Leaves for Moscow To Discuss Gulf War ..... K 3

ISRAEL

MK Biton Receives 'Arafat Message for Shamir, Peres ..... L 1
Message Proposes 'Direct Talks' ..... L 1
Shamir, Peres Reject Message ..... L 1
Peres on 'Arafat Position ..... L 1
Weizman Denies Plan Sent to 'Arafat ..... L 2
Beilin Rejects Conference With PLO ..... L 2
Shamir Comments on Begun's Release, Soviet Policy ..... L 2
USSR's Gerasimov To Make Emigration 'Statement' ..... L 2
'Senior' Soviet Diplomat on Conference Position *[HA'ARETZ 6 Sep]* ..... L 2
Unofficial Commercial Ties With USSR Reported *[HA'IR 4 Sep]* ..... L 3
Nisim To Ask for All 1988 U.S. Aid in Oct ..... L 3
Relaxed Policy To Promote Trade Ties With Hungary *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Sep]* ..... L 3
ITIM, AGERPRESS Sign News Exchange Agreement *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Sep]* ..... L 4
Tamir Says 'Permanent Channel' Open With PRC ..... L 4
Foreign Ministry Denies Coal Agreement With PRC *[HA'ARETZ 8 Sep]* ..... L 4
Shomron: No Civilians Killed in Lebanon Air Raid ..... L 4
Mossad Reportedly Operating From Beirut Offices *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 8 Sep]* ..... L 5
Roni Milo Appointed Minorities Affairs Minister ..... L 5
Justice Ministry Releases Full Indictment of Vanunu ..... L 5
1987 Inflation Rate Forecast at 16 Precent *[THE JERUSALEM POST 6 Sep]* ..... L 6

JORDAN

King Husayn Interviewed on Gulf War, UN Initiative *[London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 6 Sep]* ..... M 1
Zayd al-Rifa'i Receives Saudi Interior Minister ..... M 1
Interior Minister Views Talks *[SPA]* ..... M 1

LEBANON

UK Weekly Details Syrian Role in Glass Escape *[London AL-MAJALLAH 26 Aug-1 Sep]* ..... N 1
Lebanese Forces Command Council on 'Syrian Plan' *[RFL]* ..... N 2
PSP Statement on Gulf, Israeli Raid, Al-Jumayyil *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... N 2
2 Killed, 30 Wounded in Tripoli Explosion *[RFL]* ..... N 3
Syrians Arrest Arab Democratic Party Members *[VOL]* ..... N 3
Syrian Post Comes Under Fire From Shatila Camp *[RFL]* ..... N 3

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Returning U.S. Ambassador 8 Sep ..... O 1
5 To Die for 'Misappropriating State Funds' *[Paris]* ..... O 1
Cabinet Approves Dam Project With Jordan ..... O 1

AFGHANISTAN

Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Austria ..... P 1
Wakil, Pakistani Counterpart Open Geneva Talks ..... P 1
BAKHTAR Comments on Talks ..... P 1
Najib Attends Air Force Party Conference ..... P 2
PDPA Central Committee Politburo Session Held ..... P 2
Kawiani, Delegation Depart for Visit to Ethiopia ..... P 3
BAKHTAR Political Observer Recalls U.S. 'Crimes' ..... P 3
Kabul Comments on New Anti-DRA Radio Station ..... P 4
Pakistani Party Leader Concludes Visit, Departs ..... P 4

INDIA

Tiwari Fetes Sri Lanka's de Mel, Assures Aid ..... R 1
Defense Minister Meets With Sri Lankan Official ..... R 1
Feleiro Holds Talks With Visiting UK Secretary ..... R 1
INDIAN EXPRESS Documents Reveal Irregularities ..... R 1
EXPRESS Group Denies Accusation ..... R 1
Notice Issued to EXPRESS Official ..... R 1
Violence Reported on 2d Day of Tripura Strike ..... R 2
Sikh High Priests Call for 'War of Liberation' *[AFP]* ..... R 2
'Common Ground' Reportedly Reached in Gurkha Issue ..... R 2
Gurkha Leader Cited on Talks *[AFP]* ..... R 2

IRAN

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue ..... S 1
Iraqi Jet Shot Down ..... S 1
Second Jet Downed Near Arak ..... S 1
Iraqi Planes Bomb 2 Cities ..... S 1
Bombing Casualties Reported ..... S 1
Iraqi Jet Downed Near Do Rud ..... S 1
Iraqi Pilot Captured Unhurt ..... S 1
Immediate Retaliation Announced ..... S 1
Prisoner on 'Fath-10' Losses ..... S 2
Peshmergas Kill 200 Soldiers ..... S 2
Navy Intercepts 12 Vessels ..... S 2
UK To Protect Netherlands Minesweepers in Gulf ..... S 3
Commentary Views Netherlands, UK Gulf Moves ..... S 3
Musavi Urges Nonaligned To Protest NATO Presence ..... S 4
Besharati on Perez de Cuellar, Hostages, USSR Ties ..... S 4
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discusses Gulf With Envoys ..... S 4
Musavi Views Role of Foreign Presence in Gulf ..... S 5
Karrubi, Khomeyni Exchange Letters on Hajj ..... S 6
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on Mecca, Gulf *[KEYHAN 30 Aug]* ..... S 6

PAKISTAN

Proximity Talks With DRA Open in Geneva ..... V 1
DRA Fails To Set Withdrawal Time ..... V 1
Belgian Foreign Minister Arrives in Islamabad ..... V 1
Minister on Indian Line of Control Violations ..... V 1
Delhi: Border Committee Meeting Held in Lahore ..... V 1

SRI LANKA

Government Imposes Nationwide Security Alert *[Delhi]* ..... W 1
Alert Repeated to Police ..... W 1
20 Reported Dead in Intra-Tamil Clashes *[Delhi]* ..... W 1

Death Toll Rises to 30 ..... W 1
Opposition Leader Criticizes Peace Accord *[SUN 21 Aug]* ..... W 1
Over 16,000 Mines Removed in North, East Provinces *[Delhi]* ..... W 2
Foreign Minister Meets With Iranian Official *[IRNA]* ..... W 2

9 September Middle East and South Asia Review

LD091319 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iraqi Air Raids — Two Iraqi aircraft, one of them a Mirage 2000, were shot down in 9 September raids on Arak, Do Rud, and Dezful, IRNA announced. The raids damaged industrial units and inflicted civilian casualties, the agency said. A related Tehran radio report noted that 5 people were killed and 25 wounded in an air raid on Bakhtaran. A military statement carried by the radio warned that Iranian forces would shortly retaliate against the Iraqi raids "with full intensity." The statement accused the United States of inciting Iraq to resume its attacks on residential areas, economic installations, and naval targets.

The Iraqi Air Force had resumed its attacks on shipping in the Gulf the previous day, hitting two large maritime targets in the tanker holding area east of Khark Island at 1700 GMT, according to a military spokesman cited by Iraq's Voice of the Masses radio. The Iranian Joint Staff stated that an Iraqi jet was shot down over "southern waters" by Iranian air defenses at 1705 GMT, IRNA noted. However, INA carried an Iraqi statement denying the claim.

Moscow Diplomacy — Reporting on the talks between Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani and Soviet officials, TASS noted that both Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Council of Ministers Chairman Nikolay Ryzhkov stressed the need for a swift end to the Gulf war in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and through cooperation with the UN secretary general. According to IRNA, Larijani told Shevardnadze that Iran's stance on UNSC Resolution 598 is clear and unambiguous, noting that the resolution will be "doomed to defeat" if it is used to pressure Iran, but that Iran will welcome the resolution if its implementation is sincerely aimed at establishing a lasting peace and at eradicating the "cause of aggression." As for the talks with Ryzhkov, Tehran radio said the two sides talked about economic cooperation and agreed in principle to implement a plan for the export of Iranian oil through a pipeline across Soviet territory.

In another development, the Kuwaiti foreign minister arrived in Moscow to head an Arab League delegation which will hold talks with Soviet officials on the Gulf war, KUNA reported. The seven-member committee also includes the Iraqi foreign minister.

Iran and Kuwait — An IRNA report that Kuwait has ordered the expulsion of a sixth Iranian diplomat was denied by an "authorized source" cited by KUNA.

Libyan-Chadian Conflict

Libyan aircraft bombed the Chadian towns of Fada, Yebbi Bou, and Wour 8 September, Ndjamena radio announced. The radio had earlier broadcast a military communique detailing the results of the recent Chadian attack on the Libyan base at Ma'tan al-Sarrah. The Chadians reportedly killed 1,713 Libyans and took 312 prisoners, including 2 Yugoslavs and an East German. They also destroyed 13 Mig and Mirage aircraft, 2 Mi-24 helicopters, and 70 tanks. Chadian losses amounted to 65 killed and 112 wounded, the communique said.

A Libyan military communique cited by JANA acknowledged that the Chadians had succeeded in taking Libyan prisoners at Ma'tan al-Sarrah but reaffirmed Libya's contention that the attack on the "civilian airport" was defeated. Only a small number of the attackers survived by fleeing, the communique contended, and Libyan forces pursued them back inside Chadian territory. Another JANA report noted that Libya has given France a memorandum demanding that the latter hand over the bodies of three Libyans whose aircraft was shot down over Ndjamena 7 September. A JANA commentary spoke of a "French-U.S. military escalation" that has turned Chad into a "NATO military base."

Sudan

In the wake of Chadian claims that Libyan troops are using Sudanese territory as a base for attacks on Chad, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stressed that Sudan rejects the presence of any foreign forces on its territory and will regard any such presence as an aggression against Sudan. However, he indicated support for Libya's claim to the Aozou strip, noting that a Franco-Italian agreement of 1935 defined Aozou as Libyan territory. Al-Mahdi also discussed the Sudanese internal situation in his remarks, which were reported by SUNA, confirming that the two leading parties have held "serious consultations" in an effort to end their differences and to make the necessary governmental changes within 2 weeks. He criticized a recent memorandum by the Trade Union Alliance as "partial" and "unfair," and accused the Alliance of adopting positions on the southern conflict similar to those taken by John Garang's SPLM.

Syria

A court sentenced 5 people to death and 60 others to varying prison terms for economic crimes, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The charges included misappropriating state funds, embezzlement, forging documents, and accepting bribes.

Israel and the PLO

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres are rejecting a message which PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat asked MK Charlie Biton to convey to them, IDF radio reported, noting that Shamir and Peres believe there is nothing new in 'Arafat's position. In remarks cited by Jerusalem radio, Biton said he would convey to the Israeli leaders a proposal by 'Arafat for direct talks between the PLO and Israel outside the framework of an international conference.

Geneva Talks on Afghanistan

Reporting on the latest round of indirect talks in Geneva, Karachi radio said the DRA representatives failed to present a short timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, adding that "well-informed observers" believe the DRA only proposed the current round of talks for propaganda purposes.

However, BAKHTAR maintained that the Geneva talks are now on the threshold of reaching a final agreement as a result of the DRA's "flexible stand," which has brought the stance of the two sides closer than before. Talks on important unresolved issues will only be successful and fruitful if Pakistan responds positively to the DRA's flexibility, the agency added.

Islamic Conference Organization Meets in Turkey

Evren Inaugurates Meeting

TA071513 Ankara ANATOLIA in English
1420 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Istanbul (A.A) — President Kenan Evren, chairman of the standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) called on the delegates of member countries to hold discussions within the framework of trade and commerce and keep politics out of the talks.

The 45 member countries of the OIC resolved once again this month to boost their economic cooperation and trade ties and to rely more on themselves in a world where protectionism is rapidly gaining momentum. [passage omitted]

In his inaugural speech, President Evren pointed out that the COMCEC had established itself as an important forum of the OIC, and that it had achieved considerable progress in the field of economic cooperation among member countries "thanks to its strategy and the pertinence of its decisions."

"Positive results were obtained in a short time and the longer term trade financing scheme, established within the Islamic Development Bank, is the most remarkable example of this progress," he said.

Evren also expressed his belief that attaining a satisfactory level of economic cooperation among Muslim countries could lead, through concerted action, to their playing a significant role in the world economy and could increase their negotiating power.

Ozal Addresses Session

TA071517 Ankara ANATOLIA in English
1430 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] Istanbul (A.A) — Premier Turgut Ozal said today that applying for membership to the European Community did not mean for Turkey to forget her historical inheritance and her national identity.

Addressing the 3rd meeting of the standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Premier Ozal said that the stagnant world economy and the decrease in the growth rates of industrialized countries jeopardized the growth of developing countries, adversely affected their revenues and increased their foreign debts.

Stressing that development could be possible by means of a multi-dimensional cooperation among the Muslim countries, Premier Ozal said that improvement of multi-faceted economic ties among countries which shared a common history and culture would iron political differences. Premier Ozal went on to say that the peace water project which could carry southeastern Turkey's water to the Arabian Peninsula was an illustration of such an attempt.

On his part, OIC Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada stressed that the world's unjust order expanded the gap between the developed and developing nations.

Mr. Pirzada went on to say that acceleration of protectionism, decrease in foreign aids and international cooperation jeopardized the fragile economies of developing countries.

Iran Urges Oil Price Rise

TA081422 Ankara ANATOLIA in English
1410 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Istanbul (A.A) — Iranian Finance Minister Javad Iravani called on the member countries' of the Organization of the Muslim Conference (OIC) to increase the price of oil to 28 dollars per barrel.

Addressing the delegates from 45 member countries of the standing Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Tuesday, the Iranian minister said that "the fall of the oil price inables the Western countries to plunder this asset granted to Muslim countries by God."

Speaking at the first day of the COMCEC meeting held in Istanbul, the Iranian minister went on to say that an increasing number of developing countries, including the Muslims, started to depend on the West and this situation necessitated the establishment of new trade mechanisms.

Stressing that the stagnant world economy as a result of the fall of raw material prices and devaluation of the dollar jeopardized the impovement of the developing countries' economies, Mr. Iravani said the Muslim countries had to enter into greater cooperation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Iravani, who attempted to give account on last month's Mecca incidents during his speech, was warned by State Minister and Deputy Premier Kaya Erdem who reminded him of the earlier speech of President Kenan Evren, calling on the delegates to keep politics out of the talks.

Calls for Islamic Common Market

LD082125 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Ankara, Sept. 8, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran called for formation of an Islamic common market at the opening session Monday of the third Trade and Cooperation Committee of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), being held in Istanbul.

The proposal came by Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani who also called on Muslim countries to endeavour to cut their political and economic dependence on industrial countries.

Addressing representatives of the 39 participating Muslim states Iravani noted that the industrial countries enjoy 80 percent of the world's total industrial production despite having only 30 percent

of the world's population. "The current economic situation has worsened the plight of the Muslim world," stressed the Iranian minister.

Iravani said the Islamic Republic believes that developing and Muslim countries can achieve their self-sufficiency and self-reliance goals only through cutting political and economic dependence on industrial countries especially the U.S. and by appropriate economic and development plans.

The Iranian official condemned the July 31 Mecca massacre by the Hijaz government's mercenaries, calling for the ICO to follow up the Mecca catastrophe.

Some 351 representatives from 39 Muslim countries are taking part in the 3-day committee being held at the Sheraton Hotel in Istanbul.

'Arafat Meets With Israeli Knesset Members in Geneva
JN081852 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that he met with four Israeli Knesset members from the Israeli delegation participating in the meeting of international nongovernmental organizations held to discuss the Palestinian question yesterday. 'Arafat said that he had met with them in their capacity as members of nongovernmental organizations and not as parliamentarians. He added that the four members had affirmed their unqualified support for the Palestinian people's inalienable rights.

The PLO chairman praised the courage of the Israeli Knesset members who met with him while aware of the problems they will face when they return to Tel Aviv, alluding to the Israeli law that prohibits contacts with the PLO and which prosecutes those who make such contacts.

'Arafat noted that the PLO is in contact with the Israeli Peace Now Movement, which organized a march of 400,000 people to support the Palestinians. 'Arafat also revealed that he had had contacts with Israeli Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman, who had proposed the establishment of an Israeli-Palestinian confederation. 'Arafat noted that he had replied to Weizman through Italian journalists and that he was now awaiting Weizman's answer.

The PLO chairman also sent a message to the Israeli Government. The apparently verbal message was given to three Israelis participating in the Geneva meeting. They are Knesset member Charlie Biton and two peace movement members. One of these is David Shalom, who declined to reveal the contents of the message. He explained that it is not connected with the formation of a Palestinian delegation to the international conference but with the current efforts being made to realize peace in the Middle East without dealing with procedures.

Charlie Biton said that in his message 'Arafat set three conditions for recognizing and negotiating with Israel. However, Biton did not reveal these conditions.

Fatah Uprising Criticizes Meeting
JN081702 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] The Fatah Uprising movement issued a statement today in which it emphasized that 'Arafat's meeting with Zionists in Geneva fits in with the deviationist 'Arafatist line of liquidating the central Palestinian cause and ending the armed Palestinian revolution inside and outside the occupied territory. The Fatah Uprising affirmed that today's meeting between 'Arafat and Zionists is a blow to Palestinian national unity and strips the PLO of its militant content.

The crisis in the Palestinian arena at this particular juncture, said the statement, is only a product of forces such as these, which have proved bankrupt historically and militantly. These forces see a way out of their crisis in the liquidation of nationalist forces opposed to their program on the Palestinian level and in schemes against pan-Arab forces confronting the grand design of imperialism and Zionism in the region, the statement added.

The Fatah Uprising denounced the deviationist and criminal behavior of 'Arafat in murdering creative Palestinian nationalists like Naji al-'Ali, Majid Abu Sharar, Sa'd Sayil, and others. It stressed the need to stand up to such an approach and practices. The statement urged the PNSF to realize its set objectives by coordinating with the Lebanese Unification and Liberation Front.

The PFLP-GC and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front also denounced these meetings and called for confronting such a deviationist course.

'Arafat Arrives 5 Sep, Received by Messaadia

LD061414 Algiers APS in English 1027 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Algiers, September 6 (APS) — The president of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat arrived yesterday here.

He was greeted at the airport by Sadek Zouaten, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee in charge of the Council of Friendship and Solidarity with Peoples.

In a statement to the press, 'Arafat tackled the Zionist aggression against Ayn al-Hulwah camp and the situation prevailing in other camps. He said he will inform the Algerian officials about the latest developments on the Palestinian and Arab scenes.

Shortly after his arrival, 'Arafat was received by the head of the Permanent Secretariat, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia.

The two sides reviewed the latest developments of the situation on the Palestinian scene, particularly the tragedy of the Palestinian refugee camps. Moreover this meeting provided the opportunity to discuss Arab and international issues bearing relation to the Palestinian [issues], especially the international peace conference on the Middle-East.

Bendjedid, 'Arafat, OAU Head Confer

LD062320 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Two noteworthy presidential meetings took place today, Sunday. This morning the head of state received Yasir 'Arafat, head of the PLO; and this afternoon he received Ide Oumarou, secretary general of the OAU.

After his meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid, Yasir 'Arafat stated on Algerian television that Algeria, which achieved the impossible by encouraging the holding of the 18th Palestine National Council, is capable of making a large contribution to the holding of an Arab summit in the current situation. The PLO leader revealed that his talks with President Chadli Bendjedid dealt with Algeria's efforts and recent initiatives by certain Lebanese brothers with a view to lifting the blockade around the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Ide Oumarou stated that he is happy that Algeria and its president are in the process of making praiseworthy efforts to reduce tension in Africa in the interests of the area. The OAU secretary general pointed out that his talks with the president dealt with African issues, political as well as economic. Africa, he added, is currently going through a critical phase as a result of the seats of tension which persist in certain regions of the continent.

Bendjedid Meets Abdelghani, Sends Message to Mengistu

LD072312 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid has received today Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, member of the Politburo and minister of state for the presidency, before his departure to Addis Ababa where he will represent Algeria at the celebrations of the anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic in Ethiopia. Abdelghani is carrying a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to the Ethiopian head of state, Mengistu Haile Mariam. The president also received today Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Politburo member and foreign minister, before his departure to Madrid on an official visit to Spain at the invitation of the Spanish foreign minister.

AL-NASR Condemns Chadian Attack on Libya

LD071613 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] Constantine, 7 Sep (APS) — The newspaper *Al-Nasr* today, under the heading "A Jump Into the Unknown," comments on the grave escalation and attacks by Chadian forces in violation of the sanctity of Libyan territory.

The paper writes: The Chadian forces' attack the day before yesterday on the airport in the Libyan town of Ma'tan al-Sarah and the launching of military operations in the Libyan Jamahiriyah territory without any consideration of the consequences constitute a serious precedent and a reckless action fraught with dangers reminiscent of the Chadian political line under Tombalbaye.

The paper adds that the Ndjamena government, which until recently behaved more rationally in dealing with domestic and foreign issues, has apparently now begun to abandon its international African bonds and to open the way for foreign interference in the region, thereby declaring the beginning of the end for itself and its bankruptcy. As we all know, the exhausted Chadian forces do not possess the ability to embark on such actions. But the Hissein Habre clique found those who instigate them to seek a more tempting alternative, particularly the continued support of France and the United States in shaking up Libya.

The paper adds that at the time, efforts and consultations were going on at the level of the OAU and among African leaders, with a view to finding a solution to the border dispute between Chad and the Libyan Jamahiriyah over the Aozou Strip between the two countries. In spite of the satisfaction of the current OAU president, Kenneth Kaunda, following his recent tour of a number of African capitals in this regard, which was prompted by the flexibility he sensed in the Libyan stand which had hitherto rejected negotiations, the Ndjamena government has embraced those who instigate it to circumvent African solutions which sought to resort to international arbitration without the need for force.

The aggression on the Jamahiriyah, the paper writes, comes at a time when the latter has been abiding by the cease-fire, a matter which certainly does not please those whose interests lie in inflaming spots of tension here and there.

The paper concludes: Algeria, which has constantly urged both parties to the conflict to resolve their problem by peaceful means, can only reiterate today its past stands which call for ending this escalation of the conflict which opens the door to tendencies which contradict the charters and resolutions of the OAU.

Ibrahimi Sees Off Maltese Foreign Minister 4 Sep
LD041339 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Maltese Foreign Minister Vincent Tabone left Algiers this morning following the conclusion of his visit to our country. Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs, saw him off at Haouari Boumedienne International Airport. [passage omitted]

Joint Commission With PRC Holds Session
LD051501 Algiers APS in English 1303 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] Algiers, September 5 (APS) The 3rd session of Algerian-Chinese joint commission meeting here under the chairmanship of Light Industries Minister Zitouni Messaoudi, and Chinese Minister of Economic and Trade Relations Zheng Tuobin, took stock on bilateral relations. They examined cooperation in the economic, cultural, scientific and technical fields in the light of the decisions and resolutions of the political leadership of the two countries as well as those made by the 2nd session of the joint commission which met in Beijing in 1986. The 3rd session would undoubtedly constitute a new stage in the reinforcement of friendship and exchanges between Algeria and China, Zitouni said.

Geographic remoteness is not an impediment for the development of bilateral exchanges and consolidation of relations, he added. Zitouni Messaoudi underlined that big capacities of the two countries economy, the various aspects of their complementarity and the common political will constitute the objective bases of a broad cooperation. Algerian-Chinese cooperation encompasses various fields like commercial exchanges, cooperation in the area of finance and the carrying out of projects in Algeria with Chinese collaboration. Cooperation prospects are good, notably in the fields of industry, agriculture, and hydraulics.

Zitouni tackled the world economic conjuncture by the crisis of the world economic system which has adverse effects on Algeria. This difficult environment imposes on Algeria and China to increase economic exchanges and strengthen their cooperation, he concluded.

Cooperation Protocol Signed
LD060646 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Excerpt] The joint Algerian-PRC commission concluded its work with the signing of a protocol on their talks. For Algeria, it was signed by Zitouni Messaoudi, light industries minister; and for China, by Zheng Tuobin, minister of trade and foreign economic relations. The protocol provides for the consolidation of cooperation between the two countries in all fields, especially light industries, and for benefitting from the Chinese experience in the manufacturing of glass, ceramics, and rod materials. In the trade field, both sides defined two lists of exchanges and the means through which to consolidate these exchanges. They also agreed to cooperate in the fields of irrigation and agriculture. [passage omitted]

Mubarak 'Farmer's Day' Speech Views Foreign Ties
NC082047 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that Egypt's relations with its Arab brothers are good. He said that there are continuous consultations and exchanges of views with them. He asserted that every decision which Egypt makes is governed by the public interests of the Egyptian people and that the purpose is not to seek personal glory. He pointed out that decisions must not be made at the expense of the people, who have willingly chosen the path of peace.

In a speech delivered during Egypt's celebration of Farmer's Day in the Al-Sharqiyah Governorate today, President Mubarak dealt with the Libyan and Syrian positions. He pointed out that the Libyan leader had demanded the abolition of the Camp David accord. President Mubarak asserted: This is an old and out of place tune. He stressed that Egypt's policy is firm and that it accepts no interference in its affairs.

President Mubarak also referred to the frequent attempts by the Libyan president to contact Egypt, saying that he does not object to a contact or to the initiation of a dialogue. He emphasized that Egypt is a state which seeks good-neighborliness and peace, as well as anything that elevates Arab relations to a level of responsibility.

The president stated: Libya has frequently demanded that the radio campaigns between the two countries be stopped. We have always responded to these demands in an effort to provide them [the Libyans] with an opportunity to correct matters. However, the Libyan regime's radio only intensified its attack against Egypt and resorted to uncivilized methods.

President Mubarak stressed that the Egyptian media always present facts and objective criticism out of a commitment to the sublime Arab interests and in order to unmask those who play with the destiny of the Arab nation and seek to sow dissension in its ranks.

He said that the only feelings binding the Egyptian and Libyan peoples are those of cordiality and fraternal love. However, Egypt will not allow anyone to infringe on its sovereignty or its land. No such infringement will be tolerated, the president asserted, adding that Egypt's policy is to respect the sovereignty of other countries.

Mubarak stated that the Egyptian Armed Forces should always be strong, capable, and modern. The Armed Forces, he pointed out, provide security for the country and safeguard the dignity of the nation.

Touching upon the issue of the Libyan planes whose crews flew to Egypt, Mubarak said that the aircraft will not be returned to Libya until the Egyptians being held in that country are returned to Egypt. Egypt, he remarked, has already requested the return of those Egyptians. Commenting on the Libyan attack against Chad, Mubarak stated that the Libyan colonel has involved the Libyan Army in a lost and futile battle.

With regard to relations with Syria, President Mubarak said that Egypt will not back down from its policies. He stressed that Egyptians make their own decisions in times of peace and war. He added that in the October War, Egypt had paid a high price to restore its territories, dignity, and wealth in terms of the blood shed by its martyrs. After achieving victory in this war, the president noted that Egypt had then embarked upon the path of seeking peace.

President Mubarak once again condemned the Mecca events. He emphasized that Egypt will support the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with regard to any measure it may take in connection with these regrettable events.

Turning to relations with the two superpowers, Mubarak declared that Egypt is conducting its political, military, economic, and cultural relations with the outside world, including the superpowers, with self-confidence and on the basis of mutual respect. Egypt, he added, will not allow its sovereignty to be infringed upon, nor will it, as a matter of principle, permit the establishment of any military bases on its land. We will never make any decision that conflicts with Egyptian sovereignty, Mubarak stressed.

Concerning the conduct of joint military maneuvers with other countries, Mubarak stated that Egypt carries out such maneuvers with a number of countries both to boost the efficiency and to improve the combat techniques of its own forces and to exchange military expertise. The president then made a reference to the joint military maneuvers that are conducted by Syria and the Soviet Union.

With regard to the Gulf war, President Mubarak condemned Iranian actions against the Gulf states which, he said, pose a threat to navigation in the Arab Gulf. He added that Egypt is closely monitoring developments in the Gulf and stressed Egypt's role in safeguarding security there.

The president then touched upon Egypt's relations with Africa in general and with Sudan in particular. He described Egypt's relations with Ethiopia as good. He noted in this regard his eagerness to respond to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam's invitation to attend the celebrations marking the establishment of the republic. The visit is scheduled to begin tomorrow, Wednesday.

In response to reporters' questions pertaining to his visit to Ethiopia and to Egyptian-Ethiopian relations, President Mubarak emphasized the need to maintain good ties with that country. He added that Egypt is eager to assist all fraternal countries such as Ethiopia, which is one of the Nile basin states.

Replying to a question on the resumption of the bombardment of cities in the Gulf, the president expressed his sorrow at this development. He said that the resources of both countries are being wasted in this destructive and bloody war which is not in their interests.

Turning to the recent missile attacks on Kuwait, President Mubarak expressed astonishment at these unjustified attacks. He questioned how this could possibly solve the problem between

Iraq and Iran. The president stressed that shoulo Iran's aggression against Kuwait continue at the current level, the Arabs must convene a summit meeting, even without Egypt's participation, and pass a resolution against any [Arab] country that cooperates with Iran against an Arab state. He said that the present situation is extremely serious for the Arab world. The president warned that if the Arab countries react sluggishly to this issue, the Arab world will certainly be lost piece by piece.

With regard to domestic issues, the president emphasized that there will be no reshuffling of key posts unless the national interest deems this to be necessary. The president affirmed his eagerness to maintain domestic stability. He noted that this is the key to ensuring the safety of citizens and the homeland; to maintaining respect for the law, a commitment to the Constitution, and the supremacy of the law; to preserving market stability; and to facilitating the introduction of economic reforms and the inflow of capital to Egypt for investment.

Mubarak Departs for Ethiopian Celebration 9 Sep

NC090817 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo this morning for Addis Ababa in response to an invitation by Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. The president will take part in celebrations marking the declaration of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the appointment of Haile Mariam as president of the republic. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak is being accompanied by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and, Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry.

Talks on Rescheduling Debts to France Open 7 Sep

NC071715 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA) — A new round of talks between the Egyptian and French Governments on rescheduling Egypt's debts to France opened here today. The Egyptian delegation to the talks was led by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zahwi, first under secretary at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The French side was headed by Lajeunesse [name as received], director general of the French Finance Ministry, who arrived in Cairo early this morning. Another round of talks is expected to be held tomorrow. The current talks come in the wake of a previous session which an Egyptian economic delegation attended in Paris in August.

Agreement Signed on Rescheduling

NC090409 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA) — Egypt and France signed an agreement this evening for rescheduling Egypt's debts to France, including its military debts. The agreement was signed by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zahwi, first under secretary at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and Samuel la Jeunesse [as received] director general of the French Finance Ministry.

Al-Zahwi described the agreement as suitable and satisfactory to both sides. He added that, being a prototype, the agreement may encourage other creditor countries to assume a lenient stand when negotiating the rescheduling of debts with the Egyptian Government.

Al-Zahwi noted that both the government and the commercial debts were rescheduled to be paid on easier terms. The agreement allows Egypt to obtain new credit on soft terms, he added. The addititonal funds, he said, will be made available through a new financial protocol that Egypt and France will negotiate in October, a protocalthat may exceed 1 billion French francs in value.

Al-Zahwi said that the new protocol will concentrate on the 5-year production projects and is expected to be particularly generous in its terms.

He remarked that the debt rescheduling agreement signed today covered the debts left unpaid on 31 December 1986, as well as the debt service from 1 January 1987 to 30 June 1988.

For his part, the head of the French delegation praised Egypt's economic reforms and the pace at which its development efforts are proceeding. He said that the agreement epitomizes the excellent relations linking Egypt and France. [passage omitted]

A copy of the agreement will be deposited with the Club of Paris.

The French delegation is due to leave Cairo for home tomorrow, Wednesday, following a 2-day visit to Egypt.

Al-Sharif Leaves for FRG With Mubarak Message

NC090720 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0620 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA) — Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this morning for Munich on a visit to the FRG which will last for several days.

In a predeparture statement, Al-Sharif said that he is taking a written message from President Mubarak to Dr Franz Josef Strauss, Bavarian minister-president. He added that he will hold talks with German officials on cultural matters and on ways to improve domestic information services.

During the visit, Al-Sharif will sign an information protocol with the FRG. Under the terms of this agreement, Egypt will receive DM4 million to establish a chain of information centers in the media field.

Al-Sharif will also sign an agreement on Egyptian Media Week, during which German radio and television will broadcast a program entitled "Six Years of Mubarak's Rule."

People's Assembly Speaker Returns From Bucharest
NC081805 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from Bucharest this afternoon after a 1-week visit to Romania. During the visit, Al-Mahjub had conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu which dealt with Egyptian-Romanian relations and current international developments. [passage omitted]

PLO Officials Conclude Visit, Depart Cairo
NC081808 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA) — Bishop Iliya Khuri, PLO Executive Committee member, and Dr Ramzi Khuri, director of the office of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo this afternoon after a 3-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

No 'Promises' From Mubarak, Husayn on Negotiations
NC091059 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 8 Sep 87 p 8

[Excerpt] Cairo — According to reliable sources in Cairo, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan agreed during their recent meeting in Alexandria not to give the United States any guarantees or promises during any phase of the peace process which would lead to direct negotiations between the Arab parties and Israel.

The sources said that President Mubarak had informed King Husayn of a development in the Palestinian position, outlined in a message sent to Mubarak by Yasir 'Arafat. According to this message, the PLO will accept any formula agreed to by Egypt on Palestinian participation in an international conference.

The sources add that Mubarak and Husayn have agreed on the preliminary steps for convening an international conference. These include the PLO's acceptance of Resolution 242 on condition that it include the phrase "the Palestinian people's national rights", to be followed by a dialogue between the United States and the PLO prior to negotiations.

The sources noted Mubarak's support for Husayn's view that Switzerland should be the venue of the international conference's preparatory meetings. King Husayn will discuss the question of hosting the delegations with the Swiss Government. [passage omitted]

Restrictions on Soviet Embassy Staffing Lifted
PM081027 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Aug 87 p 10

[Unattributed report: "Restrictions on Soviets in Egypt Lifted"]

[Text] Cairo has lifted the restriction imposed by former President Anwar al-Sadat on the number of Soviet diplomats in Cairo. The Soviet Embassy has begun to reopen Soviet consulates in Cairo and Alexandria. *Al-Hawadith* has learned that Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, will visit Egypt officially at the beginning of next month. He will present a letter to President Mubarak from the Soviet leadership inviting the president to visit Moscow. The Soviet official will also discuss the strengthening of bilateral relations, especially the Soviet contribution to modernizing the textile, iron, and steel industries,and an agreement for Soviet technicians to examine the turbines of the High Dam. *Al-Hawadith* has also learned that during this visit an agreement will be signed to supply Egypt with military spare parts, the cost of which will exceed $50 million. The Soviet official will also discuss the current situation in the Gulf region and the issue of an international conference on the Middle East.

Reports on Clashes With Chad Over Border Conflict

Armed Forces Command Communique

LD081854 Tripoli JANA in English 1835 GMT 8 Sep 87

["Communique From the General Command of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 8, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The General Command of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces issued the following statement:

The forces of agent Ibri [play on the name Habre] and the U.S. and French-backed mercenaries have launched the most foolish military operation. They have attacked the civil airport of "Ma'tanal-Sarah" inside the Libyan territories. Our air and land forces have confronted them and wiped them out destroying their equipment... only a small number of them has survived by fleeing... a pursue-hunt was launched inside Chadian territories to chase them.

What is the enemy broadcasting about, was just an attempt by it to hide the defeat inflicted on its forces, that it had taken prisoners some soldiers from the civilian airport of "Ma'tanal-Sarah" were either Libyan citizens living in Chad, or military personnels who were assisting the forces of the Chadian Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) who were rounded and taken prisoners.

This is not the first time Libyan citizens were subjected in Chad to such atrocities.

Thus, it has become clear that agent Ibri does not care about any thing except "Ngezeh" tribe. He pushes other tribes to the incinerator to get rid of them by making them face certain death and destruction. Chad is awaiting patiently the day that somebody will save it from such horror and rid it from this executioner which hurls it into doom.

France Demanded To Return Pilots

LD081843 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Sep (JANA) — The People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned this evening the French ambassador to the Jamahiriyah and handed him a memorandum demanding that the French Government hand over the bodies of the three Libyan martyr pilots whose aircraft was shot down by the French forces occupying Chad on Monday, 7 September 1987.

Personnel Called to Barracks for 'Higher Training'

LD082011 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Unscheduled announcement at conclusion of newscast]

[Text] All students, armed persons, and employees of Aluriyah secondary barracks are urgently requested to attend the barracks at 0700 for higher training. Anyone who does not attend will be held responsible for his action.

Military Industry Students Ordered to Bani Walid

LD091323 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] All military industry students who have finished their studies should report immediately to the first manufacturing college at Bani Walid. As a matter of importance, everyone should be present at the mentioned place. Anybody who fails to do so will be liable to legal action.

[Signed] General Command Body

JANA Political Editor Responds to VOA Cast on Chad

LD051515 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1140 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] We have just received the following report:

The U.S. Administration today through its official radio, the Voice of America, rushed to publicize allegations made by its agent in Ndjamena about the presence of forces in Sudan preparing to attack Chadian territory.

The JANA political affairs editor has this to say on this report:

These aggressive signals reaffirm that with the presence of agent Habre, Chad has been transformed completely into an imperialist base and a cat's paw to be used for carrying out aggression on the three African countries adjoining it.

The JANA editor linked the allegations disseminated by agent Habre and propagated by the U.S. official information media with the U.S. Administration's renewed reiteration of support for its agent in Ndjamena and said that this affirms the U.S. Administration's deep involvement in a new terroristic plan using Chad as a base for plotting against the great Jamahiriyah, Sudan, and then Nigeria.

All the facts, the editor said, indicate that following the thwarting of its NATO aggression on the great Jamahiriyah in April of last year, the U.S. Administration has now moved southwards in an attempt to realize what it failed to realize in the north.

The political editor pointed out that the false charges being disseminated by the agents in Ndjamena against Sudan were no more than pretexts to be used in carrying out U.S. orders to pressure Sudan and to exercise the filthy U.S. role in that country — which is facing numerous domestic problems — aimed at aborting the Sudanese revolution and enabling the agents who used to govern return and assume the role of executor of U.S. policy in the region.

The editor pointed out that this plan also serves agent Habre's ambitions in Darfur and Junaynah and the occupation of Sudanese territory in western Sudan through the arming of some of the tribes there.

The editor affirmed that the great Jamahiriyah stands most forcefully on the side of fraternal Sudan and the 6 April popular revolution against all plots and is determined to work most seriously for the building of an Arab force capable of repulsing the aggressors who want to implement their plots at the expense of the Arab nation.

The JANA political affairs editor added: We in the Great Jamahiriyah call upon the masses in Sudan, Niger, and Nigeria to be fully alert regarding events in Chad, which has now become an imperialist base.

We also call upon the revolutionary force in Cameroon, Central Africa, and throughout the African Continent to pounce on the bases and bridges of the imperialists and liberate Africa from neo-imperialism and the agents who are working for selling Africa to the abominable racist Western imperialism.

JANA Cites Sudanese Prime Minister on Aozou Strip

LD082059 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Fatih [September] 8, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister of Sudan, asserted that Aozou is a Libyan Arab land and all historical documents prove that.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi added, in a press conference today in Khartoum, that the oasis of Aozou legally, factually and historically is an integral part of the Libyan Arab territory.

Memo to UN Rejects U.S. Threats on Arms to Iran

LD082006 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1904 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Sep (JANA) — The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has informed the Security Council chairman of the contents of the message it received from the U.S. Government on 30 August which contains the threat to use force and aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah on the basis of allegations concerning the supply of mines and weapons to Iran.

The Great Jamahiriyah confirmed in the memorandum sent by Engineer Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, its rejection of the U.S. message, its content, form and subject, on the basis that it contains unfounded fabrications and accusations and carries an unjustified flagrant threat.

The memorandum explains that the failure of the United States to direct and contain some of the independent states forces it to practice a policy of threats and aggression, and that the United States has no right to set itself up as an international gendarme which uses its interests and strategy as a criterion for justice, and subsequently as a cause for interference.

The Great Jamahiriyah confirms in its memorandum, which it has asked be distributed as an official document, its right to legitimate self-defense in accordance with the UN Charter.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Sudanese Minister, Message

LD082126 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Sep (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother Ahmad 'Adil, the Sudanese minister of education, who conveyed to him a message from Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Sudanese prime minister, concerning the strengthening and promoting of brotherly cooperation in all fields between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives DFLP's Hawatimah

Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1116 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Sep (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

War Liberation Brigade's Khalifah Leaves Tripoli

LD051546 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Muhammad Khalifah, the assistant secretary general of the People's War of Liberation Brigades, left this morning [from] the airport of Tripoli after attending the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

Muhammad Khalifah declared the support of all the cadres of his organization for the Libyan Arab people who are facing up to American imperialism and its stooges.

In a statement to JANA, Muhammad Khalifah saluted the Libyan Arab people and its armed forces who defeated imperialism and its agents and triumphed for justice and freedom.

Sudan's Taj al-Din Departs Tripoli 4 Sep

LD051009 Tripoli JANA in English 0925 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, September 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Dr 'Ali Hassan Taj al-Din, the member of the Sudanese State Council, and the delegation accompanying him left last night Tripoli after taking part in the celebrations of the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

Colonel Abu Baker Jaber Yunis, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, headed the farewell party.

Taking part in the farewell party [were] a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and the ambassador and members of the Sudanese Embassy in Tripoli.

Dr Taj al-Din expressed, in a statement to the correspondent of JANA, his pride in representing the Sudanese Arab people [at] the festivities of the Libyan Arab people marking the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

Dr Taj al-Din asserted the importance of realising the Arab unity saying that unity is the goal of all the Arab people from the ocean to the Gulf.

Cables Thanks to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD051153 Tripoli JANA in English 1038 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 5, *Jamahiryah News Agency* — Dr Hassan Taj al-Din, member of the Sudanese State Council, sent a message to the leader of the revolution as he was about to leave Great Jamahiryah following his attendance of the celebrations marking the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution. Text as follows:

Brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution, allow me and the delegation in my company as we are about to leave our homeland Great Jamahiryah to our homeland Sudan after our participation in with our relatives in Great Jamahiryah their joy of the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution to present to you and your colleagues and our Libyan Arab people the highest expressions of thanks and appreciations for the generosity and hospitality and love extended to us by our relatives. We pray to G d Almighty to protect you and keep you as a power for the Arab-Islamic nation and peoples fighting for dignity, pride and freedom.

CMSN Chairman Receives Libyan Envoy, Message

AB021258 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 2 Sep 87

[Text] Prior to his departure to Canada, the chairman of the CMSN received Muhammad al-Zaydi, a Libyan envoy who came to deliver a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution. After his meeting, the Libyan envoy stated that his talks with the Mauritanian head of state had focused on the current Arab and African scenes.

Ould Taya Leaves for Francophone Summit in Quebec

AB021259 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 2 Sep 87

[Excerpt] The CMSN chairman and head of state, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya, left Nouakchott on 1 September for Quebec where he will take part in the deliberations of the Francophone summit meeting which begin today. [passage omitted]

Returns From Summit 5 Sep

AB061330 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Excerpts] The head of state, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya, returned to Nouakchott yesterday from Quebec, Canada, where he had taken part in the deliberations of the second Francophone summit. The chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation expressed his satisfaction with the deliberations. [passage omitted]

During his stay in Quebec, the head of state met with his Malian amd Senegalese counterparts, whose countries are members of the Senegal River Development Organization, OMVS. Their discussions focused on the strengthening of the OMVS, the head of state added.

AL-MAJALLAH Reports on Foiled Coup Attempt

PM081021 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 26 Aug-1 Sep 87 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Coup Attempt in Mauritania"]

[Text] Well-informed sources in Nouakchott have reported that Mauritanian authorities have foiled a coup attempt led by Colonel Moulaye Ould Boukhreiss, a former minister during the era of President Khouna Ould Haidalla. For a period of time he also held the position of deputy chief of staff of the Mauritanian Army.

These sources indicated that Ould Boukhreiss and a number of military men loyal to him have been arrested. Circles now closely monitoring developments in Mauritania believe that Col Boukhreiss, who does not hide his sympathy with the Polisario, may have wanted to carry out a pro-Polisario operation.

It is worth mentioning that the Polisario was provided with facilities when Ould Boukhreiss was deputy chief of staff and commander of the Nouadhibou zone where the Mauritanian port is situated near the Saharan border. It is known that President Maaouya Ould Taya's government now maintains neutrality with regard to the Saharan conflict.

Saudi Defense Minister Continues Visit to Rabat

Watches Military Exercise

LD031420 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 3 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Rabat, Sept 3. (MAP) — Crown Prince Mohamed and visiting Saudi Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy premier and defence and aviation minister, watched Wednesday military drills by the Air Force and paratroopers in the Kenitra area.

The drill consisted in a mock infiltration of enemy forces and operations to thwart the raid.

F-1 jet fighters, helicopters, C-130 Hercules and ground and airborne troops perfectly coordinated action to destroy the aggressors. [passage omitted]

Meets With King Hassan

LD062348 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2317 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Rabat, 6 Sep (SPA) — King Hassan II of Morocco held a private meeting tonight in his palace in Skhirat with His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and inspector general, who is currently visiting Morocco.

During the meeting they discussed a number of issues concerning the present situation in the Arab region and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Prince Sultan arrived at the Skhirat palace at 2130 Moroccan time. He was welcomed on arrival by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and Prince Moulay Rachid, who accompanied him to the entrance of the palace where King Hassan II welcomed him.

Issues Statement, Departs 8 Sep

LD082108 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz ended his visit to Morocco today. Here is a dispatch from Casablanca:

The second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stressed in a press statement before leaving Mohamed V International Airport today that Saudi-Moroccan relations are progressing very well. He addressed his thanks to His Majesty King Hassan II, as well as to the Moroccan Government and people. [passage omitted]

Sources Deny Soldiers To Guard Saudi Shrines

LD091252 Rabat MAP in English 1221 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Rabat, Sept 9 (MAP) -- Moroccan well-informed sources have strongly denied this Wednesday the news announced by the BBC in its afternoon broadcast in Arabic "Alam al-Dhahirah" ["The World at Noon"] and according to which Morocco would have agreed to dispatch soldiers to Saudi Arabia with a view to ensuring the security of the holy shrines of Islam.

The same sources said that the talks Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy premier and minister of defense had with Moroccan officials in Rabat had not at all tackled this issue.

UAE President Arrives on Visit; Met by Crown Prince

LD072305 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Excerpt] UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan arrived in Morocco this evening. He was received at Rabat-Sale Airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed. [passage omitted]

Meets Saudi Defense Minister in Rabat

JN081055 Doha QNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Rabat, 8 Sep (QNA) — UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general who is also visiting Morocco.

During their meeting last night, they discussed the current situation in the Gulf region, the effect of the Iraq-Iran war on the region's security and stability, and the present situation in the Arab world.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan arrived in Rabat yesterday on a visit to Morocco.

Al-Mahdi News Conference on Coalition, South
JN081550 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Sep (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has said that [words indistinct]. He added: We in Sudan want a free democratic trade union to contribute to the general performance in the country. He also said that this trade union must not have political and partisan objectives because politics destroys trade unions and deprives them of their role. He described the memorandum as partial, dealing with negative, rather than positive, aspects. He pointed out that the government's achievements increased the average of the general growth by 7.5 percent compared to last year's growth. He added that the government also played a positive role in the Nonaligned Movement and in establishing peace in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

During his news conference, Al-Mahdi described the memorandum of the Trade Union Alliance as unfair, adding that his government inherited the problems of the transitional government. [passage indistinct] He also said that the Trade Union Alliance's call for the return to the 1974 laws on secularism has been rejected by the political forces and that the alliance has adopted a political solution to the problem of the south without considering national requirements. He added that the alliance called for an end to the war but did not mention the issue of foreign support for the rebellion. He said: This is treason, which cannot be accepted adding that the memorandum neither condemns John Garang's movement nor describes it as an agent but rather adopts its positions. He added that the memorandum calls for the representation of the new forces in violation of the uprising's charter.

Al-Mahdi said that the alliance's memorandum presents 11 demands and added that he would call for a popular conference to look into the government's performance during the past 30 months and issue a decisive statement explaining the democratic course, the sound bases of trade unions, and the issue of defending democracy.

Regarding the events in the Darfur region last May, Al-Mahdi said that the region set up a fact-finding committee chaired by the Darfur public prosecutor and police officers, pointing out that he had received a report on these events last August. He described these events as a natural result of the historical circumstances of the life of the region's tribes and their search for subsistence.

In his press conference, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi criticized a book published by Professors 'Ashari and Baldu [names as received] from Khartoum University on the Al-Du'ayn incidents, the number of people killed, and child slavery. Al-Mahdi said that the sons of the Al-Ruzayqat tribe will file a libel suit for the damage to and distortion of their reputation caused by the book's harmful lies. He said that the government will set up a legal commission to study the book and file a libel suit because of the harm caused by the book to the country and its reputation.

Al-Mahdi referred to the development projects in the country, saying that the projects are proceeding well and that foreign financing of these projecs has reached $2.397 billion.

On Chevron's suspension of oil drilling operations, Al-Mahdi said that the company's justifications are unconvincing and unobjective. He said that the government will carry out measures to review this, noting that there are companies operating in the field of oil drilling in the country aside from Chevron.

Al-Mahdi affirmed there is a tendency to support the mass media in reflecting the government's achievements.

On the outcome of the Addis Ababa conference, which brought together the Anya Nya II, a number of the southern parties, and the movement of John Garang, Al-Mahdi said the Sudanese Government has responded to all the initiatives seeking a peaceful solution to the problem of southern Sudan. The Sudanese Government, added the prime minister, has consistently sought to improve Sudan's ties with Ethiopia. Al-Mahdi said he is waiting to hear from the parties that participated in the Addis Ababa meetings when they return.

He disclosed that he had (?accepted) an apology from the *Sawt al-Jamahir* newspaper of the Khartoum University Students Union regarding a report it published recently on the repatriation of the Falasha Jews with his knowledge in return for arms purchases for the party militia. Al-Mahdi explained that a Falasha had gotten in touch with him through an intermediary, saying he and others wanted to embrace Islam and that the prime minister had offered what help he could. He said the incident coincided with the uncovering by the Central Investigation Department of a quack, indicating that Sayyid Hamid Khalifah, former editor in chief of *Sawt al-Ummah*, had agreed with him on the repatriation of the Falashas from Sudan.

The prime minister denied that such an agreement took place. He asserted that Sudan does not oppose people on the basis of religion, race, or creed but does not approve of transferring them to Israel for political considerations, as this would be counter to Sudan's principles. Al-Mahdi said he rejected this approach during his visit to Washington last year when certain U.S. senators proposed this.

On the Chadian conflict, Al-Mahdi said that Italy and France, which ruled Libya and Chad, signed an agreement in 1935 in which they agreed that the Aozou border strip is Libyan territory. After World War II, no mention of this agreement was made. He said Sudan is completely distancing itself from the Chadian war and is rejecting and will reject the presence of any foreign forces on Sudanese territory. He said that orders have been issued to the Sudanese Armed Forces to regard any such presence as an aggression on Sudan. Sudan appeals to both sides in the dispute to cooperate between themselves and coexist peacefully after the dispute has been resolved by international arbitration.

Al-Mahdi noted that the Al-Ummah and the Democratic Unionist Parties have affirmed the need to cooperate as a national requirement to establish a basis for national unity. The two sides, he said, have affirmed the need for their continuous cooperation and ending their differences. He described these differences as [word indistinct] democratic climate. He said serious consultations have been held with the various political bodies with the aim of effecting the necessary changes within 2 weeks without exposing the country to shock and without weak-

ening the administration of the country. Al-Mahdi said cooperation still exists among the organs in the Cabinet and the State Council.

Answering a reporter's question, Al-Mahdi said Sudan's position on the Gulf war calls for efforts to contain the situation. He said Islamic organizations and the international community should work to stop the fighting, which harms both sides.

Al-Mahdi affirmed Sudan's serious intentions to improve its ties with Ethiopia. He said a Sudanese delegation led by 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din will participate in Ethiopia's celebrations as an expression of goodwill.

Referring to recent student demonstrations in the towns of Sinjah, Al-Damazin, Sannar, and Suki, Al-Mahdi said they started when a boat carrying some students sank. This was because the Sinjah Pontoon was out of order. Five female students drowned. He said the governor of the central region, Faruq Isma'il has formed a committee to investigate the demonstrations.

Al-Mahdi said the law of registering Sudanese political parties will be presented to the parties for their views on it. [words indistinct]

Libyan Forces Reportedly Deployed Inside Border
JN091114 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] The independent *Sudan Times* published in Khartoum today affirmed that a number of Libyan military untis were deployed inside the Sudanese territory at the common Sudanese-Libyan-Chadian borders. The newspaper affirmed that the Sudanese authorities fear the Chadian forces may launch military operations inside the Sduanese territory against the Libyan military concentrations.

Taj al-Din Returns From Libya, Makes Statement
JN051108 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, Sept. 5, SUNA - Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is supporting all steps being taken by Sudan for settling the southern Sudan problem, member of the State Council Dr. 'Ali Taj al-Din announced.

Dr. Taj al-Din who returned here early today from Libya after taking part in Libya's celebrations of the 18th anniversary of the first Sept. revolution said stemming from his deep understanding to the crucial circumstances Sudan is currently passing for which unifying of efforts is imperative, Col. al-Qadhdhafi has pledged to exert his utmost efforts for helping Sudan to over-come all its problems atop of them the southern question.

On the Chadian conflict Dr. Taj al-Din revealed that Col. al-Qadhdhafi has worked out an initiative for peacefully ending the armed dispute in Chad. No further information is available about this initiative.

Dr. Taj al-Din pointed that it was agreed during his meetings in Libya with the heads of Uganda, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Algeria and Libya on a peace initiative to be launched by these countries in collaboration with the OAU for ending the Chadian conflict.

He affirmed that specific steps towards the way of ending peacefully the Chadian crisis will emerge from the Tripoli meetings and that a move to this effect will be seen very soon within the framework of these countries and the OAU.

While there Dr. Taj al-Din said in a statement last Thursday that the Libyan officials had positively and comprehenisvely understood the issues presented by the Sudanese delegation during the talks with the Libyan officials which covered political, economic and social relations. The visit was an opportunity for the delegation to be acquainted with formidable development taking place in Libya in all fields, Dr. Taj al-Din said.

During his visit Dr. Taj al-Din met, apart from Libyan officials, with the presidents of Uganda, Ghana, and the deputy-chairman of Burkina Faso Revolutionary Council who were attending the Libyan celebrations marking the 18th anniversary of Sep. 1st revolution led by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

State Council Member, Dr. 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, discussed (Thursday) with the Libyan Army Commander in Chief Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis, bilateral relations and regional issues of common interest.

Dr. Taj al-Din said in a statement after the meeting that he had reinvited Colonel Yunis to visit Sudan and that the latter had accepted the offer. The date of the visit will be fixed shortly.

Dr. Taj al-Din also met last Wednesday with the member of the Sept. revolution historical leadership Maj. 'Abd al-Salam Jallud.

The meeting focused on bilateral relations and issues of regional interest. Taj al-Din also participated same day in a three-hour meeting attended by the presidents of Uganda, Burkina Faso, Ghana and the Algerian Liberation Front Politbureau Member, Rabah Bitat. The meeting tackled regional issues with the Chadian conflict in the forefront in addition to the discussion of ways of ending regional wars and conlficts.

Ugandan President Mediates Between Sudan, SPLM
JN081100 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 8 (SUNA) — President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda is mediating between Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement 'SPLM' at the request of Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, said Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn who ended a three-day visit to Kampala on Sunday.

Al-Husayn further said that Museveni informed him that Al-Mahdi had asked for his mediation when he was attending the recent summit of Central-East African countries in Khartoum and that was the reason behind the presence of SPLM leader Col. John Garang in Kampala.

However, Al-Husayn denied press reports that he had contacted Colonel Garang but he indicated that he met the delegations of the Sudanese African parties who are still negotiating with SPLM in Kampala.

Referring to the meetings of the Sudanese-Ugandan Ministerial Committee he described them as successful.

Both countries signed four agreements on [words indistinct], security, transportation and customs.

Parties, Garang Reportedly Meet in Kampala

JN051526 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Sep (SUNA) — SUNA reports from Kampala, Uganda, have said that a delegation from the Sudanese African parties met with SPLM leader, Colonel John Garang, in Kampala last week. SUNA, however, has not yet received information about the results of this meeting, which was held as part of the peace efforts and the endeavors to convene a constitutional conference.

The Sudanese African parties and the military wing of the Anya Nya II movement met with the Garang movement's leadership in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the end of last August. They held talks called the Addis Ababa forum and announced their commitment to the Koka Dam declaration, which was reached between Garang and some key Sudanese figures in 1986. They also announced the cancellation of the September laws. The statement issued following these talks was signed by Pope [as received] James Surur for the Sudanese African parties; by Lieutenant Colonel William Nun Yang, SPLA chief of staff and member of the SPLM Supreme Command; and by Lieutenant Colonel David Deng for the Anya Nya II movement.

On the other hand, the issue of the Kenyan newspaper *Nation* published today, Saturday, cited Colonel David Badit [name as received], chief of staff of the Anya Nya II movement, as saying that a rapprochement has taken place between the Anya Nya II forces and the SPLM and that they have agreed to the formation of a unified front. The paper added that a complete agreement between them has almost been reached, with 75 percent of their talks having been completed. The paper, however, did not mention anything about the objectives of this front.

3 Killed, 8 Injured in Sannar Student Protest

JN061130 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Sep (SUNA) — Three persons, including two students, were killed while eight policemen, including a colonel, were injured during demonstrations by students in the city of Sannar in the Central Region yesterday.

The newspaper *Al-Rayah*, organ of the National Islamic Front reports this. Quoting its correspondent in the city, *Al-Rayah* says the students chanted antigovernment slogans and set fire to the City Council building and the cultural complex.

Al-Rayah correspondent says that police were not able to bring the situation under control and the army was called in to guard public installations.

Police Contain Demonstrations

JN071117 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, Sept. 7 (SUNBA) — The police force has contained the situation in Sannar city Blue Nile Province following the recent demonstrations by students due to acute shortage of school equipment Police Director General Ibrahim Ahmed 'Abd al-'Arim said Sunday. The demonstrations broke out last Saturday and the police dispersed the students after they destroyed a number of shops and cars. 'Abd al-'Arim said that an investigation committee was set up to consider the incidents.

SPLA Radio Reports Attacks in Bahr al-Ghazal

EA072059 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Reports from western Bahr al-Ghazal say SPLA forces of Wau Task Force clashed with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's militia at (Abu Saka) station, on Wau-Raga road, on 24 August 1987. A correspondent says that 10 of Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's militiamen were killed and many others were wounded and the entire camp of the militia was completely burned to the ground. [passage omitted]

Combined SPLA forces of Maban, Kashbah and Sikkin, under the direct command of 1st Lieutenant (Gordon Makwach Kur) and the overall command of Colonel Makuei Deng Majuch, attacked the enemy station at (Burgara), north of Maban town on 22 August 1987. Five enemy soldiers were killed and several others were injured. Correspondent says that the food store and the arms and ammunition stores in the enemy's station were all burned down. In another development, the enemy troops who ventured out of their garrison at Maban were intercepted and beaten back with heavy casualties. [passage omitted]

Bourguiba Urges Talks To Normalize Ties With Libya

LD051324 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Excerpt] His Exellency President Habib Bourguiba, this morning at his residence in Marhag, held a working session with Prime Minister Rachid Sfar; Aomar Chedli, minister director of the presidential office; and Mansour Skhiri, minister of equipment, housing and transport.

Rachid Sfar made the following statement: I submitted to the supreme combatant a report on the discussions of the Political Bureau which convened yesterday at the party's premises. I acquainted his excellency the president with the outcome of the negotiations and contacts conducted by his excellency's personal envoy to sisterly Libya, on the celebration of the 1 September anniversary, in response to an invitation from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and conveyed to his excellency the president of the Republic, greetings and sentiments of respect from all Libyan officials who received him, at the forefront of whom was Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The supreme combatant ordered the continuation of dialogue until the normalization of relations with sisterly Libya are reestablished on clear and firm grounds. [passage omitted]

Ministers Warn Against 'Preachers of Sedition'

LD032155 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 3 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Tunisia celebrated today the 53d anniversary of the detention of the supreme combatant President Habib Bourguiba in 1934. [passage omitted]

Entrusted by the supreme combatant, Zine Labedine Ben Ali, deputy secretary general of the Socialist Destourian Party and minister of state in charge of the interior, delivered a lecture on this occasion at the Palace of Congresses in Monastir this morning. [passage omitted]

He stressed that Bourguiba, who relied on the people during the liberation struggle and the battle against underdevelopment, still relies on the people, under the guise of religion, to stand up to tendencies which endeavor to spread sedition and division between members of the one Muslim society and to harm the gains for which the sons of the nation made sacrifices. The mask has fallen, and Tunisian [words indistinct] the aims of the extremist terrorist group which only aims to undermine the security and stability of the country and the toppling of the venerable bases of the republican regime with support from Iran, which did not hesitate at the highest official levels to acknowledge its role in inciting and supporting the preachers of sedition and violence. [passage omitted]

Rachid Sfar, secretary general of the party and prime minister, in an impromptu speech he delivered following Zine Labedine Ben Ali's lecture, expressed the patriotic feelings of all citizens on this dear occasion, which represents the leader's steadfastness on the path to victory. The secretary general of the party said that we promise anew from this struggling standpoint to resist and fight again and again to protect Tunisia from a new and masked colonialism, which is that of the extremists allied with neo-Zionism and with Iran, the Khomeyni agents who hide behind religion to damage the Tunisian independence and gains and who want to bring Tunisia back to the former colonialist times. [passage omitted]

The prime minister stressed that it is the citizen's duty to confront with total vigilance the biased allegations which are propagated by some, through which they try to make citizens believe that it is dangerous for them to carry out their religious duties and even possess or carry God's holy book. [passage omitted]

Islamic Tendency Movement Defendants Questioned

LD050158 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 4 Sep 87

[Excerpts] The State Security Court, presided over by Mr Hachemi Zammel, reserved today's session for questioning a number of defendants of the so-called Islamic Tendency Movement. [passage omitted]

Another defendant confirmed his confessions during interrogations, especially holding and distributing leaflets including an official statement by the movement, which was found on him. The statement criticized the regime, called for demonstrations, and called for confrontations with the authorities. The defendant admitted that he gave a financial contribution to the movement, and that he held 1,900 Tunisian dinars from the contributions of the movement members. He stressed that the movement has close relations with all the Islamic movements in the world.

KUWAIT

Source States Only 5 Iranian Diplomats Expelled

LD082023 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1955 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 Sep (KUNA) — An authorized source has stated that the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry had expelled only five Iranian diplomats. The source added that a sixth diplomat has not been expelled, as reported by Tehran. The source stated that only two Iranian diplomats remain in the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Amir, Prime Minister Meet With Libya's Al-Talhi

LD091132 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1112 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Sep (KUNA) — Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in Libya — the foreign minister — met here today with the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Al-Tahil also met with with Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. Both meetings were attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Mohammad al-'Usaymi, and Libyan Charge d'Affaires Hassunah al-Shawish.

Al-Talhi arrived here yesterday from Baghdad after a short visit to Iraq during which he met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Before visiting Baghdad Al-Talhi stopped over in Kuwait and held talks with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and with senior officials in this member country of the GCC.

PDRY Minister Arrives, Comments on Gulf Situation

LD081926 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1255 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 8 Sep (KUNA) — The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen today affirmed that it stands by and supports Kuwait in everything that threatens its security and stability. It also expressed its concern about this in view of Kuwait's security being an integral part of the entire region's security. It strongly denounced the attempts aimed at escalating and widening the scope of the Iraq-Iran war.

It also emphasized the importance of and the need to hold an emergency summit of Arab kings and presidents to discuss the latest developments.

This came in statements made by Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, member of the YSP Central Committee and PDRY minister of culture and information, upon his arrival to the country at 1415 today on a 3-day visit. [passage omitted]

Dr Jirghum said in a statement to KUNA and Kuwait radio that he is carrying a message to the amir from President Haydar Abu Bakr Al-'Attas relating to developments in the region and to bilateral relations.

Dr Jirghum stressed that the PDRY, which has strong brotherly ties with Kuwait, will continue to strengthen bilateral cooperation in all fields to serve joint interests and just Arab causes.

He added: In this context, we stress our concern for security and stability in the brotherly State of Kuwait in view of its being a part of the region as a whole. We also express our support for Kuwait against any external threat to its security and stability. He went on to say that his country is following up with great concern the situation in the Arabian Gulf region which has developed as a result of the continuing Iraqi-Iranian war, "and we strongly condemn the attempts aimed at escalating and extending the war."

The PDRY official demanded that this war be immediately stopped and urged the two warring sides to sit at the negotiation table and resolve problems by peaceful means. He said that the PDRY, which has condemned the war since it broke out, rejects any occupation of other's territories by force and always stresses its respect for the independence and sovereignty of every state in the region; building mutual relations should be based on noninterference in internal affairs and anything that can cause tension and upset security and stability in the region should be avoided.

Dr Jirghum indicated that security and stability in the region are dependent primarily on ending the Iran-Iraq war, securing international navigation in the waters of the Arabian Gulf, and to the withdrawal of the foreign forces from the region.

He said that this stand "reflects the superior and exemplary relations" existing between the PDRY and sisterly Kuwait, expressing his confidence that these relations will develop even further.

He also expressed the hope that this visit and the meetings with the information minister and officials in the Kuwaiti education and information departments will help develop their relations with their counterparts in the PDRY.

With regard to the PDRY stand vis-a-vis the latest escalation in the region, he said that the PDRY clearly condemns any form of escalation and widening of the scope of the war. He added that his country is looking forward to the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers due to be held in Tunis on 20 September and to the decisions which might be made then on this matter.

Concerning the appropriate measure to be taken in case of Iran's persistence in rejecting UN Security Council Resolution 598, Dr Jinghum said that there are internatioanl conventions which decide on this matter, indicating that his country supports the UN Security Council resolution.

He also expressed his confidence that the efforts of the Arab League in this respect will come together with international efforts, saying: "This is a good opportunity to stress the need for holding an emergency Arab meeting to discuss all the new developments."

Foreign Ministry Condemns Chad 'Penetration' of Libya

LD061807 Kuwait KUNA in English 1512 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 6 (KUNA) — In regard to reports about the penetration of Chadian forces inside Libyan territories, a source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry stated that Kuwait rejects and condemns the invasion or occupation of any part of Arab lands.

In accordance with Kuwait's national commitment and in implementation of the international principles which resent the occupation of other's lands, Kuwait calls for reaching a peaceful settlement to the Libyan-Chadian conflict, the source said.

AL-ANBA' Calls for Effort To 'Liberate' Arabistan

JN072158 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Sep 87 pp 1, 22

[Editorial by 'Abdallah Ahmad Husayn: "How Long Will Our Own Land Be Invaded?"]

[Text] Why do we always retreat? Why do we fight with our backs to the wall? Why do we fight while using our houses, children, and women as our barricades? Why do we face the Persians on the western coast [of the Arabian Peninsula] when we have kinfolk, relatives, and loved ones on the eastern coast? The eastern coast of the Gulf is also Arab and is abundant with Arab tribes. It is also the place where Arab amirates and Arab manliness flourished. The Hawalah Arabs lived and continue to live there from Bandar 'Abbas to Bushehr. Banu Nasr lived and continues to live in the port of Bushehr, and they had their state there. Al-Matarish lived and continues to live in Khark and its environs. Banu Sa'b lived and continues to live in (Bunaydir Riq). Banu Ka'b and others lived in areas stretching to the Ahvaz. The Ahvaz state fell to the tyrant shah only 50 years ago and was the last Arab stronghold to stand fast alone for some time. After that the Persians imposed a blackout on these areas and its Arabs became like pure Persian areas.

The eastern coast of the Strait of Hormuz stretching to the Ahvaz was exclusively Arab, and the Persians only had the mountaintops where they lived as primitive savages. However, the tyrant shah came down to the coastal plains and invaded the Arabs there who could not find any of their Arab brothers to champion them. Thus, their identity was apparently lost and their amirates were destroyed due to the absence of Arab awareness and pan-Arab sentiment. The Arabs of the eastern coast cried out as we are crying out now. However, no one came to their rescue and those around them paid no attention to them. Their kinfolk did not come to their rescue and the spiteful, gloomy, and malicious sea of Persians gradually overwhelmed them. However, they were not finished nor uprooted. They would have some standing if the Arabs paid attention to them and opened their arms to them. The Arabs, along with their Arab brothers on the eastern coast would have turned this Gulf into an Arab lake devoid of any wars or fighting. Moreover, this insane and destructive war would not have taken place. We are doing our utmost to extinguish this war but to no avail. The Persians are doing their utmost to ignite it and have succeeded.

Why do we allow Khomeyni to pounce upon us on the western coast of the Arabian Peninsula when we could have pounced on him from the eastern coast? Why do we allow Khomeyni and his henchmen to send their agents to plant terrorism on every inch of Iraq, the Arabian Peninsula, Lebanon, Egypt, and Tunisia? Why do we allow them to become a fifth column among our people to terrorize, kill, and shed the blood of pilgrims and desecrate every inch of the holy place? Why do we allow them to cause disasters here and there? Why do we allow them to openly threaten the Arabs and deal with anyone who defies their threat to make him an example for his brothers?

The opportunity is not yet lost. Arabistan [Khuzestan Province] is still Arab and the eastern Gulf is also Arab. Moreover, the men are ready to take up their swords. They are awaiting the call and they will respond. The Arab heroes in Arabistan waged fearless battles, revolutions, and struggles throughout the coast. Some of them rose as revolutionaries, some of them were martyred only recently, and some of them are still carrying arms. Let us therefore join hands with them and let us join the front to liberate the Ahvaz and as far as Bandar 'Abbas. However, our support for them should be an Arab support based on noble and permanent pan-Arab objectives until victory. It should not be a political move or maneuver which stops when we achieve our end. Our stand toward them should be the stand of those who want to declare a jihad that does not stop until the Arab state of Ahvaz is established. Only then will we no longer find a Persian invader who makes threats here and there.

PDRY

DPRK's Yi Chong-ok Leaves for Ethiopia

EA062045 Aden ANA in Arabic 1310 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Aden, 6 Sep (ANA) — Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Korean Workers Party Politburo and DPRK vice president, and his delegation left Aden this morning for the Socialist Republic of Ethiopia after a 2-day visit to our country.

Before his departure, Comrade Yi Chong-ok made a statement to ANA in which he expressed his deep satisfaction over the short but enjoyable visit. He said: We met with Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and exchanged views on matters of common interest aimed at developing relations between the two friendly countries as well as important international issues. He added: We shall spare no efforts to develop these good relations existing between our two countries.

He concluded his statement: When we return to Korea we shall convey all our good impressions about the warm reception and generous hospitality and the good and cordial sentiments which the people of Democratic Yemen cherish for the Korean people.

He was seen off at the airport by Comrade Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier and minister of energy and minerals, and a number of officials.

Culture Minister Leaves for Kuwait, Bulgaria, USSR

LD082325 Aden ANA in Arabic 1635 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Aden, 8 Sep (ANA) — Comrade Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and information, left Aden this morning for Kuwait, Bulgaria, and the USSR.

Comrade Jirghum told ANA that he was carrying a letter from Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the People's Supreme Council, to his brother Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the amir of Kuwait, concerning bilateral and regional developments.

He said that during his visit to the People's Republic of Bulgaria he would be signing a protocol for technical and scientific cooperation between the two friendly countries. During his visit to the USSR he will discuss various aspects of Yemeni-Soviet cooperation in the fields of culture and information and methods of strengthening and developing them. He said that during his visit to the USSR he would also meet officials of the Soviet-Yemeni Friendship Society to discuss methods of developing relations between the friendship societies in the two friendly countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Ties With Iran

LD082356 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2150 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Jeddah, 8 Sep (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, stated that Iran is pushing the Arab world to review its policy toward Iran, which it has followed for the past 8 years, and to which Iran has not responded.

His royal highness emphasized in an interview broadcast this evening by Turkish television that the current tension between Iran and the Arab world, particularly the states neighboring Iran, originates from Iranian threats against its neighbors, despite their attempts to establish good relations and links with Iran in hopes of putting an end to the Iraq-Iran war, which would serve both Iran's and Iraq's interests.

His royal highness the foreign minister expressed his hope that the Arab League meeting, scheduled for 20 September, would receive encouraging signs from Iran regarding its war with Iraq and UN Security Council Resolution No 598 on halting threats directed against the Arab Gulf countries.

His royal highness explained the actions of some Iranian pilgrims on Friday during the pilgrimage in holy Mecca regarding their threats to cancel the pilgrimate rituals and their attempt to enter the holy mosque carrying slogans and banners that had nothing to do with Islam. They were instead related to distancing Islamic states from their unity and pushing them toward disunity. He said that the Iranian pilgrims were warned before the demonstration started that they would not be allowed to enter the holy mosque, but they refused to listen to the security forces. What happened then has been reported in detail by the Kingdom and has been quoted by international media.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal indicated that all Islamic countries reject the exploitation of the pilgrimage for personal reasons. He said all Islamic communities worldwide, and even the international community, have condemned these acts that were perpetrated by the Iranian pilgrims to undermine the pilgrimage.

His royal highness added: We hope that the international reaction, and particularly the Islamic reaction, will be an opportunity for the Iranian leaders to realize that they cannot convince people or even convey their message through violence and demonstrations. Likewise, if they want to liberate sacred places, they have before them Jerusalem to liberate, not Mecca, which is in secure Islamic hands.

His royal highness pointed out that Iran should direct its attention toward productive and fruitful acts, and the message preached by its leaders to the Islamic world and to the rest of the world should be a message of peace, brotherhood, and love, the true message of Islam.

His royal highness expressed suprise at the statements made by some of the leaders of Iran threatening the Kingdom and their description of it the Kingdom as one of their targets, like Iraq and Israel. He said we do not see any basis or reason for those regrettable statements and when we review the history of Saudi-Iranian relations since the beginning of the Iranian revolution we do not see for certain any reason from the Saudi side for this attitude. The Kingdom has not threatened Iran and has not harmed its interests. On the contrary, over the past years it has been expressing its desire and hope of making a contribution to achieving a peaceful settlement, being the country in which bridges are established between Iran and the Arab world. His royal highness said that this remains the policy of the Kingdom and went on to say we hope that a positive response reaches us from Iran, instead of depicting the Kingdom as an enemy of Iran.

Answering a question about what Iran said last week, that it will work to prevent Iraq from exporting its oil through the pipeline if Iran's oil exports through the Gulf are halted and that one of the oil pipelines goes through the Kingdom, his royal highness replied that one of the pipelines goes through Turkey and went on to add this is one of the examples of the twisted Iranian logic with which it is trying to transfer its conflict to nonparticipants in its war with Iraq.

His royal highness asked: Is it permissible if Iraq attacks a region in Iran for Iran to attack a region in another country? His royal highness confirmed that the Iraqi-Iranian conflict is governed by the Geneva charters and nothing else. It has never happened in history that a country in a state of conflict gave itself the right to attack a neighboring country because it had been attacked from the territory of the country confronting it in this conflict. He said this is one of the causes that has led to instability and serious tension in the Gulf. If Iran makes it its right to attack any country, whether hostile to it or not, naturally every country in the region has the full right to defend itself against aggression.

His royal highness explained that the Gulf Cooperation Council is a political entity which is not directed against any state or group of states, and that its objective is cooperation in the

political, economic, and security fields and to see peace prevail in our region. He confirmed the determination of the GCC states to defend themselves against aggression, and called on Iran to halt its aggression and threats against the GCC countries and to establish better relations with those states. Also Iran should declare its desire for peace, stability, and security, which is the responsibility of all the states in the region.

In his interview with Turkish television, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that the presence of international fleets in the Arabian Gulf is due to the continuation of the conflict and due to the Iranian threat to spread its domain in the Arabian Gulf region and to attack the ships of other countries uninvolved in the conflict. He said: The GCC called on Iran to avoid actions which might bring international conflicts into the region and to work toward establishing peace and stability. He pointed out that it is not too late to achieve this. He added: Kuwait is not the only country whose ships were exposed to Iranian attacks; Dutch, Italian, French, British, and others were exposed to the same attacks from Iran, which leads to the continuation of the threats in the region.

His highness called on all peace-loving countries to instigate Iran to accept the wish of the international community to reach a quick end to its war with Iraq. He said: It is the duty of every Muslim to instigate Iran to accept peace so that this sad period of our history can come to an end.

His highness pointed out that Saudi Arabia reiterates its support for UN Security Council Resolution 598, which fulfills the peace and interests of the two sides of the conflict and the international community, as well as the efforts of the UN secretary general. He described the resolution as good, important, and preserving the interests of both Iran and Iraq. He also expressed his hope that the UN secretary general will be successful in his mission between Iraq and Iran, so that a stage of peace and stability could begin in international relations. His highness stressed that the Arab countries unanimously supported this resolution and called on the UN and its secretary general to immediately shoulder their responsibilities in applying this resolution.

His royal highness explained that several countries, including Turkey, have made efforts with Iran to urge it not to exploit the pilgrimage for purposes other than the one sanctioned by God. He said Iran staged those demonstrations and the resulting actions despite all the warnings and the efforts exerted by many other countries. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed the hope that Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal would be successful in convincing Iran of this and said religious issues should not be belittled, especially if this leads to conflict and rupture among the Islamic states. The role of the Islamic countries should be a means for the unification of the Muslims and cooperation, and not one of disunity and the creation of conflicts among them.

His royal highness confirmed that the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his government, and people are pleased with their relations with Turkey and pointed to the existing cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, and commercial fields through the Saudi-Turkish joint committee, which are aimed at widening the scope and fields of cooperation between the two countries in their joint interests. Finally, his royal highness expressed the hope of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and of the Saudi people that Turkey will achieve the success for which it is working, in the interest of the Turkish people and for solidarity and fruitful cooperation between our two countries and the Islamic world.

YAR Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah 6 Sep

LD062107 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Jeddah, 6 Sep (SPA) — 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs in the Yemen Arab Republic, arrived in Jeddah this evening.

He was met at the King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Salim Sanbal, the director of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department in Jeddah; a representative of the Royal Protocol Department; 'Abdallah al-Masajidi, the general consul of the Yemen Arab Republic in Jeddah; and a number of officials.

Conveys Salih Message to King

LD062331 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2122 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Jeddah, 6 Sep (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, has received a message from his brother, His Excellency Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR.

The message was conveyed by YAR Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani during his audience with the custodian of the two holy mosques this evening at his office at Al-Salam Palace.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and Ghalib 'Ali Jamil, the YAR ambassador to the Kingdom.

Departs Jeddah 6 Sep

LD062336 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2216 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Jeddah, 6 Sep (SPA) — His excellency the YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, left Jeddah tonight following a short visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Salim Sanbul, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department in the western region; a representative from the Royal Protocol Department; and Ghalib 'Ali Jamil, the Yemeni ambassador to the Kingdom.

U.S., Egyptian Military Reportedly Deployed

LD051306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] During the past 20 days, the United States has sent over 2,500 military experts to various parts of Saudi Arabia to watch its military institutions. According to the Central News Unit, the Lebanese magazine *Al-Kifah al-'Arabi'* added that some 4,000 Egyptian soldiers and officers have also recently been dispatched to this country in order to strengthen the Al Sa'ud military forces.

Commentary Urges Iranians To Overthrow Ayatollahs

LD081704 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Commentary by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Mihanna: "Spotlight on News"]

[Text] Our Gulf area has become the center of surprises, with nothing but such surprises. The Iraq-Iran war is no longer the main issue, as far as what is taking place in the waters of the Gulf or on the sands of the calm beaches of the Gulf. At the end of last week, Iran launched a Chinese-made missile from one of its naval ships in the Gulf. It hit residential areas south of Kuwait. The damage that resulted from the missile was of the same magnitude as that resulting from a surprise air raid against unarmed people while they are in their homes. This killer missile came following Iran's invitation to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to visit Iran to discuss the recently adopted UN Security Council resolution on ending the war. The Kuwaiti Government, which is searching for peace, reaffirmed in cables sent to the secretary general, who was packing his luggage prior to his departure to Iran, that the Security Council should take the appropriate measures to deter Iranian forces from approaching the Kuwaiti coast or the Kuwaiti people. At the same time, Kuwait called on Iranian rulers — something which Kuwait has done more than once in the past — to view the region's destiny with an eye to reality so that the region will not become an inferno that will end life and security in the Gulf.

Iran allowed the navies of the East and West to enter the Gulf when it spread fear in these waters. Mines exploded over an area extending from the Gulf of Oman to the coast of the UAE and up to the head of the Gulf near Shatt al-Arab. Trade for both West and East was no longer safe from attacks by Iranian missiles or mines which aroused fear among world traders. Therefore, it was inevitable that a foreign naval presence would be established in the international waters of theGulf to protect this trade. Nevertheless, Iran was one of those who called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the waters of the Gulf, stressing that the region's security is the responsibility of the Gulf states. The mines and missile attacks against ships and tankers were the reason behind the entry of foreign warships into the international waters of the Gulf. If Iran and the ayats [reference to ayatollahs] are seriously searching for the region's security, why did they make the war a slogan for attacks and aggression on the Arab states bordering the Gulf?

To answer this question we should go back a little, when the ayats of Iran began to surface in the political arena. Ayatollah Sadeq Ruhani and his colleague Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali had a dramatic role in the Gulf, which the world press wrote about. Most radio networks — and in various languages — spoke about their bravery. Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali described himself as a lion fighting the forces of both East and West. He described himself as an enemy of America. Suddenly, he met with the U.S. ambassador in Tehran more than once to discuss issues of interest to both Islam and Muslims in Iran. Ayatollah Sadeq Ruhani found himself a custodian of the Gulf islands. He demanded that the independent Arab state of Bahrain join the Persian mainland and he regarded Bahrain as part of Iran.

The ayats of Iran know perfectly well the main reason for this continuous aggression against the Arab states of the Gulf — to draw attention to the new instead of discussing the old. The three Arab islands — Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tumbs, which are Arab islands belonging to the UAE — are still fresh in their minds. The Persian colonization of these islands, which has been going on for more than 10 years, will not be forgotten with the passage of time no matter how long it will go on. The three islands are Arab in affiliation and in name; their return to the Arab mainland is a matter not open to negotiation. Iran is no longer the power capable of colonizing others. The State of the Khosrau [the old Persian Empire] which was destroyed by Islam was unable to colonize the Arab mainland when the latter had no governments and were full of tribes. How can the ayats do that today and be arrogant enough to insult the Arabian Peninsula, which consists of independent and strong Arab states, governments, and entities?

The Kingdom and the GCC member states have preferred not to go to war with Iran not because they fear the consequences or because they desire to live, but have opted not to go to war for one reason — because Iran is an Islamic state and there are Muslims on its territory. These Muslims have links of religion and neighborliness with Arabs everywhere.

The ayats of Iran who are spreading corruption on earth do not represent the Iranian people in any form or way. This is because the Iranian people will eventually wipe the dust off their faces and see the true path. The Iranian people are now divided. Waves of migration have increased as many Iranians are leaving their country. The number of outlaws in Iran has become large. Last week the Kuwaiti security forces arrested two Iranians who were carrying 7 kg of opium. In Tunis the authorities arrested a sabotage network consisting of Iranians and agents of Iran. In Egypt the leader of the organization responsible for the recent assassinations admitted that he wanted to establish a Khomeynite state in Egypt with Iran's assistance. In France and the rest of Europe jails are full of Iranian terrorists and illegal immigrants. Along the borders between the European states there are Iranian groups roaming aimlessly; they have lost the true path and do not know where their destiny will take them to escape their plight. This is the true face of Iran. This is the true face of the Iran of Khomeyni and his other ayats who have made Iran a haven for international terrorism. Where is the power which Persian used to enjoy? Where is the strong entity that used to exist in the Gulf? The Iranians now live in sorrow, problems, and repentence. The past will not return! The advice which they should follow is to throw the ayats out of their country and leave

politics to the politicians who realize the interest of Iran and the Muslim people of Iran.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

President Salih Receives FRG Minister 5 Sep

JN051345 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today the FRG minister of economic cooperation. They reviewed bilateral relations and spheres of joint cooperation as well as issues of mutual interest to the two friendly countries. The FRG minister briefed the brother president secretary general on the outcome of the FRG-YAR talks and the level of political, economic, and tehnical cooperation between the two countries.

The brother president secretary general highly praised the level of relations and political and economic cooperation between our country and the FRG. He also praised the FRG's support for our country during the first and second development plans and the support it will extend during the third development plan. The FRG minister expressed admiration for our country's progress and achievements in the political, social, and development fields under the glorious 26 September revolution under Brother President Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The FRG minister also expressed great admiration for the historic and ancient sites he saw, which represent important historical records that highlight the great cultural renaissance of the Yemenis, who established the most important and advanced civilization of their time.

The meeting was attended by Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the Central Planning Council, and member of the Standing Committee, and the FRG ambassador in Sanaa.

FRG Minister Leaves Sanaa

JN072113 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Hans Klein, the FRG minister of economic cooperation, left Sanaa this afternoon following a 4-day visit to our country. During the visit, he led his country's delegation to economic talks with YAR officials. Also, a number of economic cooperation agreements were signed. [passage omitted]

Shortly before his departure, the FRG minister held a news conference at Sanaa International Airport. He called his visit to our country useful and said that it had impressed him favorably. His talks, added that FRG minister, centered on expanding bilateral cooperation to encompass numerous areas. He thanked all officials he met with including President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, for the hospitality accorded him.

Meanwhile, a meeting was held today between Brother Ahmad Luqman, minister of municipalities and housing, and the FRG minister and his delegation. The sides exchanged friendly talks and reviewed cooperation between the friendly countries. They focused particularly on city planning and technical assistance by the FRG.

Reportage on Gulf War Operations Continues

2 'Large Maritime Targets' Hit

JN081953 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1934 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Statement by Iraqi military spokesman on 8 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Air Force has continued to cut off the oil supplies exploited by our country's enemies to perpetuate the war. To exercise this inalienable and legitimate right, our daring Air Force dealt an accurate and effective blow to two large maritime targets in the tanker holding area to the east of Khark Island at 2100 [1700 GMT] today. After carrying out their mission, our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

Out of our pan-Arab commitments toward the Arab nation and its security and as a reflection of our national commitments to our people, we will continue to strike until the Iranian regime accepts peaceful coexistence with regional people and an end to the war in accordance with the bases stated in Security Council Resolution No 598 as an indivisible whole.

Blessed be our Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and men. Praise be to God for His victory.

[Dated] 8 September 1987

Communique No 2,816

JN081635 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Communique No 2,816 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 8 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's guidance and a firm belief in His victory and justice, with deep love for land and people, and with absolute loyalty to the leader of victory, may God preserve him, our victorious forces have continued their combat activities. Our forces are more capable than ever before of destroying the adventures of the agent, backward, and disappointed Iranian rulers regardless of their insistence on perpetuating the war.

The following is a roundup of the activities of our units for last night and today:

1. The brave helicopter gunships' knights carried out 47 combat sorties in which they inflicted new losses on enemy personnel, weapons, and hardware. They then returned with their planes safely to base, praise be to God.

2. A brave force from our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan carried out a successful raid on a number of enemy positions in front of them. With intensive fire, the force killed eight scoundrels and destroyed four infantry positions. As the remainder of the enemy personnel escaped, pursued by our fire, five others were killed. The force also pounded an enemy group as it attempted to interfere, forcing it to escape and leave behind its weapons and hardware in no-man's-land.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, one enemy personnel was killed, one tank and two infantry postions were set on fire and destroyed, and five ammunition dumps were blown up.

4. Two scoundrels were killed, one ammunition dump was destroyed, and one 60-mm mortar was found in the I Army Corps northern sector.

5. One of the enemy's personnel was killed and one ammunition dump was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 September 1987

Iranian Claims on Fighting Denied

JN081647 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims about fighting in border areas in the Irbil and Kirkuk Governorates. In a statement to INA, the spokesman described these claims as lies fabricated by the Iranian regime's agents to obtain money. The spokesman said: The Iranian regime believes these lies with its known stupidity. It feeds them into its propaganda machine, which propagates only lies.

Spokesman Denies Plane Downed

JN090653 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0618 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has refuted Iranian allegations on the downing of an Iraqi plane last night.

The Iraqi military spokesman told INA a short time ago that these allegations by the so-called Iranian Joint Staff Command are, as usual, baseless and far from the truth.

In conclusion, the Iraqi military spokesman wondered why the Iranian Government, its media, and its military organs despise the Iranian citizen to such an extent that they provide him with fabricated news as though he had no brains and could not realize even the simplest matters.

Communique No. 2,817

JN091227 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1150 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Communique No 2,817 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 September 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great. Pride to the Arab nation. God is great. Glory to you, O

proud Iraqis, and to your brothers in fraternal Kuwait. O sons of our glorious Arab nation, today is Kuwait's day. It is another day of the blessed victory weaved by the nation's knight, the protector of its land, the honorable and dignified man who has devoted himself to Islam and Arabism, the hero Saddam Husayn. Our leader has previously and loudly declared: Tell the Kuwaitis that every bullet fired upon them will be countered by 1,000 bullets fired from Iraq. This is how we view our relations with them. God is great. He molded you from a noble, solid, and radiant substance that shines with goodness and victory, O great leader. Today is the day of judgment. If you say O Saddam, then Iraq responds; if you say O Saddam, then Iraq implements. O citizens, the Iranian regime has practiced the policy of killing and sabotage in this peaceful fraternal country. The Iranian regime has attacked the commercial and oil supplies to this fraternal country. As soon as the regime of charlatans obtained a few missiles from the Arab nation's enemies,it could not wait to demonstrate its hatred. It fired some of these missiles against fraternal Kuwait coupled with impertinent threats and filthy words that could only come from the lowest kind of people.

In implementation of our leader Saddam Husayn's instructions, in affirmation of the bonds of blood, religion, history, and common destiny, and in light of all of the above reasons, a large number of planes took to the air to attack deep inside the Iran of charlatans and spiteful jugglers. These aircraft carried out the following heroic missions to avenge fraternal Kuwait on Kuwait's blessed day:

1. With God's help, a devastating blow was dealt to a paper factory in Dezful at 0904 [0504 GMT] today, destroying its installations and setting them on fire.

2. A violent blow was dealt to the oil pumping station in Bagh-e Malek at 0911, setting it ablaze.

3. A devastating blow was dealt to the oil loading platforms in Ganaveh in the Arab Gulf at 0930, setting them ablaze.

4. A devastating blow was dealt to the engineering equipment factory in Arak at 1030, destroying it.

5. At the same time, scores of our aircraft dealt violent blows to the cement factory east of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran]. The planes destroyed their targets.

6. Numerous aircraft simultaneously dealt a violent blow to the sugar factory east of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran]. The planes destroyed their targets.

7. At the same time, other planes dealt devastating blows to the Do Rud cement factory.

8. Our aircraft simultaneously dealt a devastating blow to the power station east of Shahabad [Eslamabad].

9. Scores of our planes raided war production facilities southwest of Khorramabad at 1110 [0710 GMT], destroying their targets.

10. At the same time, scores of our planes launched a violent raid on the oil filling station and its reservoirs southwest of Khorramabad, setting their targets ablaze.

11. At 1330, numerous planes launched a raid on the Khaneh sugar factory and destroyed their targets.

12. Scores of our planes dealt a violent blow to the communications station in (Garnag) at 1400.

13. At the same time, scores of our planes dealt a destructive blow to the communications station in Ilam, destroying their targets in the station.

This is the greeting of Iraq — leader and people — to sisterly Kuwait for the genuine pan-Arab spirit expressed by this good country. This is retaliation for our brothers in the sisterly country of Kuwait, expressed by the fire of shells directed at the rancorous and racist clique. It is an expression of pride in and appreciation for the sisterly country of Kuwait, which has confirmed its pan-Arab affiliation through words and deeds and which has fully realized that aggression against Iraq is an aggression against the entire Arab nation. It is a country which has courageously expressed the fact that the true interests of the region's peoples, including the Iranian people, lie in establishing peace and stopping this war. It is an Arab country which did not bargain with the bargainers over religion, Arabism, facts, and truth. This stand, which stems from honorable pan-Arab feelings and a noble humanitarian policy, did not please the Iranian rulers who insist on war, sedition, and sabotage. These rulers live on the division of ranks. They deal with other people in an arrogant way based on a lack of conscience and on disparity in the size of states.

Today we have confirmed to the Iranian rulers what our leader said a few days ago: You should not imagine that matters are judged by their size. There is Kuwait today. It will remain greater in the balance of power as far as the logic of justice and honor are concerned than Iran, the country of threats, crime, and evil. Once again we throw it into your faces, O rulers of Iran. Beware! Beware of committing aggression against sisterly Kuwait. Bear in mind, O ignorant and backward despots, that the facts that govern the conflict and its present and future results are one thing while your cheap, outmoded, and superceded wishes to humiliate the Arab nation are something else. Do you forget that we are the Al-Qadisiyah people and that our land has strong knights and rich resources? Political heresy, dark plots in collaboration with Zionism, and empty threats to Kuwait and others will not help you to get anything that you desire.

Muhammad's banner is fluttering over our minarets and villages. It is being held with the fist of truth by the grandson of the prophet of mercy. Where are you and your desires, O rulers of Iran? O glorious Iraqis; O glorious Kuwaitis; O Arab nation, you have every right to boast of this elite heroic Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks — who have retaliated for fraternal Kuwait.

Long live our Arab nation. Long live the knight and the defender of Arabism whenever the fire raged, the great Saddam Husayn. Let the day of Kuwait be immortal in the annals of history. Our last prayer is: We thank God the almighty.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 September 1987

Military Pledges To Fight With Kuwait Against Iran

JN091119 Baghdad INA in English 1105 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 9, INA — An Iraqi military daily today stressed Iraq's abilities to "turn Iranian cities topsy-turvy," if the Iranian regime repeated its attacks on Kuwait.

Al-Qadisiyah daily, organ of the Iraqi Defence Ministry, said in an article published here today that "for each missile landed on Kuwait, Iraq will, in his turn, launch ten missiles and hundreds of jets which will turn Iran to ruin."

"Iraq stands alongside Kuwait, not by denouncing the Iranian crimes verbally as some Arab regimes did but we will fight beside Kuwait with all our potentials, *Al-Qadisiyah* said.

The daily further said that President Saddam Husayn has instructed us that the Iraqi Army is not for Iraq only but for the whole Arab nation and he prepared for us means of power to defend Iraq and all Arab countries if they were subjected to aggression.

The daily stressed that the Iranian quacks will discover, sooner or later, that Kuwait will remain as impregnable for them as Iraq.

Kurdish Anti-Iranian Military Operations Reported

JN081205 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Paris, 8 Sep (INA) — Fighters from the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran [KDPI] have carried out a series of military operations against positions of the Iranian regime and the Khomeyni Guard, inflicting a heavy loss in life and equipment.

According to a KDPI communique, the fighters took control of the Rabat Lilanah [name as received] road on the Mahabad-Sar Dasht axis. They attacked a bus carrying Khomeyni Guard personnel and killed its occupants. In an area south of Kurdistan, the communique adds, the KDPI fighters attacked two vehicles loaded with Khomeyni Guard personnel as it was traveling between Romeyleh and the Mara Set Mostafa [name as received] Heights. They destroyed the two vehicles and killed more than 20 of its passengers.

The communique points out that fighters from the Qandil force ambushed agents of the Iranian regime between the villages of Karbasak and Alikos [name as received] in the Behrimirgan [name as received] subdistrict of the Piran Shahr area. They attacked a Toyota vehicle, killing three Khomeyni Guards and wounding several others.

The communique adds that a group from the Zagros force party in southern Kurdistan clashed with a group of Iranian regimeagents and Guards on the mountains of Kehlin [name as received] in the Java Roy [name as received] subdistrict of the Sanandaj area. Several personnel were killed in this clash and their equipment was seized. The communique notes that the Qandil force fighters pounded the Khosri Mishan base in the Kordeh area, inflicting heavy loss of life and equipment.

The communique says that KDPI fighters from the martyr Zbishmar force in Mahabad ambushed an Iranian force in the Barava [name as received] plain area. They destroyed the force and killed more than 11 of its personnel.

'Aziz Leaves for Moscow To Discuss Gulf War

JN081518 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Moscow today. The foreign minister will join the delegation of the Arab League's 7-member committee entrusted with following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war. The delegation will hold contacts with Soviet officials within the framework of the committee's new plan to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left for Moscow for the same purpose.

MK Biton Receives 'Arafat Message for Shamir, Peres

TA081414 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Charlie Biton says Yasir 'Arafat has conveyed a message through him for Prime Minister Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Peres. MK Biton is participating in a nongovernmental organizations conference on Palestine. According to MK Biton, the message was given to him at an evening meeting with 'Arafat in which two other Israelis, Victor Alush and David Ish-shalom, also participated. Charlie Biton told our correspondent Gid'on Kouts that the message is a follow-up to talks between Prime Minister Shamir and Romanian President Ceausescu.

Message Proposes 'Direct Talks'

TA090455 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Charlie Biton says that during their talk in Geneva, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat proposed that direct talks between the PLO leadership and Israeli leaders be held even outside the framework of an international peace conference. MK Biton says he will convey this message from 'Arafat to the prime minister and vice prime minister. Earlier Biton had said that 'Arafat had spoken to him about his readiness to accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Shamir, Peres Reject Message

TA090626 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres are rejecting the message from Yasir 'Arafat conveyed by Knesset Member [MK] Charlie Biton. Shamir and Peres believe there is nothing new in 'Arafat's remarks, and Israel will not conduct negotiations with a terrorist organization. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel reports:

Yitzhaq Shamir's office says the prime minister is not interested in a message from Yasir 'Arafat. Shamir believes 'Arafat said nothing new and that Israel will conduct negotiations only with countries, not with terrorist organizations which want to annihilate it. As for HADASH MK Charlie Biton's announcement about the message he is conveying from Yasir 'Arafat, the prime minister's media adviser said the question of whether MK Biton and the other Israelis who met with the PLO leader transgressed the law should be looked into.

Foreign Minister Peres' office has reacted similarly to 'Arafat's remarks, stating that the PLO leader has already said in the past that he is prepared to recognize UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and to hold negotiations with Israel under UN aegis. The foreign minister's office states that the fact that 'Arafat is trying to win the approval of MK's and other activists does not point to a change in his position. Shim'on Peres is not taking this seriously. He believes that King Husayn, who heads a country, is Israel's partner for negotiations. In other words, Shamir and Peres are united in their position: They reject 'Arafat's message outright.

Peres on 'Arafat Position

TA081919 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Me'ir Kohen in Peres' office on 8 September; in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles — videotaped]

[Text] [Kohen] Mr Vice Prime Minister, how do you view Yasir 'Arafat's declaration of his acceptance of the UN Security Council resolutions? Is this something new?

[Peres] First of all, I have not heard Yasir 'Arafat's announcement. I only heard what Charlie Biton said was Yasir 'Arafat's announcement, and the two are not necessarily the same. I think this amounts to word games. If Yasir 'Arafat had really changed his views, the first person he would have addressed to bring word of this change would have been Jordan's King Husayn. After all, what was the stumbling block that killed their negotiations? It was precisely these issues. Yasir 'Arafat loves to play word games occasionally, especially when he sees some Israeli leftists and wants to give them something for the road. So he utters several such phrases.

[Kohen] What would you call a change in 'Arafat's views?

[Peres] First of all, there is a difference between our position and that of the United States — and this is a difference we can live with — and there is yet a third position, that of Jordan. The United States has said that 'Arafat, or the PLO, must accept Resolutions 242 and 338 as they are, with no additions or alterations; that he must recognize Israel's existence; and that he must cease all acts of terrorism and violence. Jordan presented three different conditions: acceptance of 242 and 338; a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation instead of two separate delegations; and avoidance of terrorism and violence. These were the conditions Jordan presented. As for us, we also mentioned the existence of the Palestinian Charter and the fact that the PLO is still pursuing terrorism and violence.

[Kohen] Do you believe that this announcement would bring 'Arafat closer...

[Peres, interrupting] What announcement?

[Kohen] His announcement that he is acknowledging 242 and 338.

[Peres] But there is no such announcement! So far there is only the announcement of Charlie Biton. I have not seen any announcement by Yasir 'Arafat to that effect.

[Kohen] In other words, you do not anticipate any...

[Peres, interrupting] Lord knows how often I have heard that 'Arafat has changed his view. Listen, one may change his mind only once!

[Kohen] Finally, sir, how do you envision the next stages of the political process in the region?

[Peres] At this stage I believe that one must wait and see what happens at the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting on 15 September, and what happens during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit at the end of November.

[Kohen] What do you hope to achieve during your meeting with Shevardnadze?

[Peres] Look, we are in the midst of an ongoing dialogue with the Soviets on issues of interest to us, namely immigration to Israel, diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, and the Soviet Union's Middle East position in view of the fact that it often supports the more extremist positions.

Weizman Denies Plan Sent to 'Arafat

TA081624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman has firmly denied a report that Yasir 'Arafat received from him a plan for a confederation between Israel and the Palestinians and that 'Arafat will send his response to Minister Weizman. 'Ezer Weizman told our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a that he has never transmitted any message to 'Arafat and is therefore expecting no answer. The source of the report is Radio Monte Carlo, which reported that Italian jounalists mediated between 'Arafat and Weizman on the confederation plan.

Beilin Rejects Conference With PLO

TA091047 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Dr Yosi Beilin, the political director general of the Foreign Ministry, believes there is no chance for an international conference if the PLO is included in it. Dr Beilin also sees nothing new in Yasir 'Arafat's recent remarks in Geneva. 'Arafat highlights the aspect he finds most convenient on each occasion according to his audience. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that according to Dr Beilin, the PLO must abandon its military posture and turn into a purely political organization which does not engage in terrorism.

Shamir Comments on Begun's Release, Soviet Policy

TA071832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the exit of Yosef Begun and other prisoners of Zion from the Soviet Union does not indicate a real change in the Soviet Union's policy. This represents only a small flow, and we would like to see any Jew who wants to emigrate from the Soviet Union being permitted to do so.

The prime minister welcomed the expected meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and his Soviet counterpart, but added that Mr Peres does not have a mandate to conclude agreements. Mr Shamir was talking in a news conference in Netanya.

USSR's Gerasimov To Make Emigration 'Statement'

TA091512 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov says he will make a statement tomorrow on the Soviet Union's position on Jewish emigration. Gerasimov said his statement will also include remarks on refuseniks such as Ida Nudel, as well as on the issue of direct flights to Israel. The above was reported to Yehoshu'a Me'iri, spokesman of the new Israeli Center Party, who presented the Soviet spokesman with questions on the subject.

'Senior' Soviet Diplomat on Conference Position

TA060851 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Sep 87 pp 1, 5

["Exclusive" report from Washington by Tzvi Bar'el]

[Text] The Soviet Union does not want to accord the international conference the right of veto, nor is it demanding that the conference have the power to force a solution. Nevertheless, "we insist that no interim agreements be signed, just one comprehensive accord," a senior Soviet diplomat told *Ha'aretz*.

He claimed that the Soviet Union would not accept a separate agreement between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians without one with Syria and Lebanon, too. "We will support anything that will be agreed between Israel and each one of the parties, but the way we see it, the job of the international conference will be to prompt the sides that are 'dragging their feet,' thereby making sure that all the bilateral agreements will be signed in parallel and simultaneously. We will thus avoid separate agreements."

The diplomat made it clear that this issue is actually the last remaining difference between the U.S. and Soviet positions, and yet he did not rule out the possibility that his country might show flexibility on this issue as well. He had no doubt that the Soviet Union would resume its relations with Israel in the course of the peace deliberations and that it would not insist that these ties be restored only at the conclusion of the process, as had previously been its stand.

The Soviet diplomat cast doubt on an assessment made by U.S. sources that the Soviet Union might show a more flexible position on the peace process during the meeting between foreign ministers Shultz and Shevardnadze in Washington in 10 days, "because the Soviet Union believes that there is anyway no meaningful or powerful government in Israel at the moment. The Soviet Union can therefore raise whatever proposals it wants without getting any Israeli reaction." According to the Soviet diplomat, the Soviet Union's flexibility stems from developments in the Middle East, past experience, and the desire to bring about a solution. "We have made many mistakes in the past," said the representative in the spirit of glasnost, "and now we are trying to rectify them. But Israel, too, needs to learn a lesson from its past mistakes. You, too, could use a bit of glasnost."

Unofficial Commercial Ties With USSR Reported

TA050622 Tel Aviv HA'IR in Hebrew 4 Sep 87 pp 26, 27

[Excerpts] You would need to support Me'ir Wilner and Ge'ula Kohen if they happen to get word of the following: An office representing the Soviet Union's unofficial economic interests in Israel is located in Ari'el. It bears an inconspicuous name, the GG Company for Trade and Investment, and is headed by a former immigration activist who resides in the settlement. The Ari'el office has a branch in Textile House in Tel Aviv, and anyone who wants to trade with Soviet Government offices under the guise of a private company will receive guidance in both offices.

Trade between the two countries has been maintained for many years, long before the sporadic nebulous deals carried out by Grisha Feigin. Thus, the Egg and Poultry Board, for example, flew chickens to the athletes of the world who united in the Olympic games in Moscow 7 years ago, transporting the merchandise via Hungary and Bulgaria. It will be recalled that Israel had boycotted the games against the background of the invasion of Afghanistan. The Tavori Company, too, helped correct this wrong by selling the Soviet Union juices manufactured by its plant in Pardes Hanna which were flown directly to the Soviet occupation forces in Afghanistan. The Soviet Union responded in kind and is exporting timber, iron, and steel to Israel. It makes no difference that the 60-million dollar question is: What does one do with that steel?

Israel supplies the Soviet Union with fruit (though not through Agrexco, whose prices are relatively high) via Romania. Once again, the Israeli fruit's destination is the Soviet Army. An Israeli attorney who makes regular visits to the Soviet Union once every 3 months reports that the Soviets are not ashamed of serving Israeli juices in their restaurants. Some of the most advanced Israeli electronics plants sell their products to the Soviet Union, including a well-known computer firm that has not yet gotten out of the red. The Israeli goods come with instructions and addresses printed in Russian in Israel, to make them look as though they were manufactured in Siberia.

In addition to Israeli chickens, the Soviets are also partial to Tnuva butter and eggs, and love Israel chemicals fertilizers, and medical equipment. At various periods, Israeli businessmen imported fur from the Soviet Union, making their deals largely through subsidiaries of Soviet Government offices located in Austria, Belgium, France, and the FRG, where Feigin travels accompanied by Israeli businessmen.

Soviet diamonds bypass the Brussels syndicate and make their way to Israel. A former Israeli residing in Belgium carries out deals to the tune of $5 or $6 million a month, and part of the gems reach the Diamond Exchange in Ramat Gan. David Katz, an American who has an office in the Ramat Gan Diamond Exchange, strikes similar deals, too, besides running offices in Zurich and Moscow. The red diamonds' crossing point is usually Antwerp.

Soon the Soviets will decide on the future of their ties with Shabtay Kalmanowitz, an Israeli businessman who heads the Tel Aviv representation of Bophuthatswana, the South African homeland. Even before became mired in a forgery affair in Sierra Leone, Kalmanowitz bought and traded in wheat, seeds, and raw material from the Soviet Union, together with his partner Bill Davidson. Kalmanowitz helped the Soviet economic delegation strengthen its position in Sierra Leone. The plum he got in return was the promise that he will become partner in the construction of a sports stadium in the Soviet Union. That happened because the Soviets were so impressed by the stadium he had built together with architect Yisra'el Godovitz in Bophuthatswana. Kalmanowitz, who was born in Russia, is now awaiting trial in London. [passage omitted]

All this data is waved aside by the Industry and Trade Ministry spokesman with a joke: In 1986, Israeli exports to the Soviet Union amounted to $142 million, while imports were worth $14,000. Even if these figures are ridiculous, they provide a confirmation of sorts to the existence of direct trade between the two countries.

Nisim To Ask for All 1988 U.S. Aid in Oct

TA060427 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Israel will ask the United States to transfer its entire 1988 aid in one lump sum next month. Our economic affairs correspondent Meir Einstein reports that Minister Moshe Nisim will bring up this request during his meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington later this week. Minister Nisim departed last night for the United States.

Relaxed Policy To Promote Trade Ties With Hungary

TA080744 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Sep 87 p 8

[Report by Ken Schachter]

[Text] Tel Aviv — Israel is on the verge of bending government policy in an effort to encourage commercial contacts with Hungary, a well-placed trade official in the private sector says.

The official, who asked not to be named, noted that current policy requires a trade balance between the nations. To achieve that end, the Ministry of Trade and Industry doles out import licences based on evidence that an export deal with Hungary for a comparable amount is imminent.

But as commercial and political contacts have accelerated in recent months, the ministry has shown signs of relaxing its stance, the official says, allowing import licences even to businessmen who can't guarantee an impending export.

The goal remains to keep bilateral trade in balance, he says, but now the government will pursue that end by monitoring commerce over a longer term.

That concession by the Israeli Government is just another step in a delicate pas de deux between two countries flirting with the possibility of expanding economic contacts and re-establishing political links severed after the Six-Day War.

Their fragile relationship was jarred last week when an Israeli official publicly declared that a Hungarian official told him of plans for the two nations to open interest sections. The Hungarian foreign ministry hurriedly denied any such intention.

Even before Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev ushered in the era of glasnost, the Hungarian economy was known as perhaps the most free-wheeling in Eastern Europe. Still, the Israeli trade official says Hungarian businessmen remain extremely sensitive to gestures from the political echelon.

"Hungarian businessmen look from side to side," he said. "If nothing happens, they go another step. Nobody, really knows what the politics are. There is no situation where a leader says, 'Go do business with Israel.' If a politician visits Israel, they make a step. If there's something anti-Israel in the newspaper, they go back a step."

Israel's major incentive for improving ties with Hungary would be to break its political isolation. Budapest, meanwhile, clearly covets Israeli technology, particularly in agriculture and medicine. A visit by Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'oz two months ago helped whet Hungary's appetite for Israeli agricultural systems.

"They check out every possibility of buying goods," the trade official says, "especially agricultural machinery. The delivery of irrigation systems was linked to the trip of Katz-'oz."

Israel, meanwhile, is examining imports of Hungarian grain, as well as chemicals and other raw materials. A special variety of Hungarian mini-potatoes also has aroused some interest in Israel.

Before the recent flurry of activity, commercial ties were weak. Last year bilateral trade amounted to about $8 million in each direction.

A further hindrance to increased bilateral trade has been Hungary's lack of hard currency reserves. This has necessitated that the countries conclude many deals through barter, which sometimes can prove unwieldly.

Koortrade Ltd., which had a presence in Hungary even before the recent thaw, conducts business there through its office in Austria. The Hamashbir Coop currently exports agricultural equipment from a Kibbutz to Hungary.

ITIM, AGERPRESS Sign News Exchange Agreement

TA080641 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Sep 87 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv, (ITIM) — The Romanian news agency, *Agerpress*, signed an agreement yesterday with the Israeli news agency, ITIM, that will enable both countries to receive each others news service.

The accord will also allow for an exchange of analyses and of reports about developments in each country regarding relations between Israel and Romania.

Tamir Says 'Permanent Channel' Open With PRC

TA090442 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Avraham Tamir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, has met with China's ambassador to the United States. The two met in New York. This was the second meeting between Tamir and the Chinese official, who told reporters that China's agreement to talks came from its commitment to advance the peace process in the Middle East. The Chinese ambassador told Tamir that China considers the PLO a partner to the negotiations between Israel and its neighbors. Tamir told the Voice of Israel reporter in New York that a permanent channel of communications has now opened up between Israel and China.

Foreign Ministry Denies Coal Agreement With PRC

TA080917 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Sep 87 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Israel and the PRC have signed an agreement for the supply of coal to Israel by the PRC, Western sources reported this week. The agreement was signed following lengthy negotiations between the two countries.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ehud Gol has denied this report, noting that there have recently been numerous reports in the Israeli and international press about economic ties between the Israeli Government and the PRC. According to him, all these reports are unfounded.

Shomron: No Civilians Killed in Lebanon Air Raid

TA081150 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Excerpt] The chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, has denied the report that civilians were killed in Saturday's Israeli air strike against terrorist targets in south Lebanon. Gen Shomron was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Jack Katzenell reports:

It was Gen Shomron's aide, Major General Moshe Bar-Kochba, who had said that Saturday's raid in the area of Tyre was ill-conceived because of the women and children who were killed. Gen Bar-Kochba was speaking in an interview with the news media, but Gen Shomron told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that his subordinate, Gen Bar-Kochba, was misinformed and simply did not know the facts. There were no civilians in the area which was bombed, he said, and he had spoken to Gen Bar-Kochba about this. The committee accepted the chief of staff's explanation, and praised the Defense Forces for the air strike and for its other successes in south Lebanon in which terrorists have suffered casualties.

Mossad Reportedly Operating From Beirut Offices

TA081102 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Sep 87 p 4

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Text] Israel's Mossad has resumed its activities in Lebanon and operates out of three offices, according to a report in the latest issue of *Al-Watan al-'Arabi*, an Arabic-language weekly published in Paris.

The weekly, whose editors are Lebanese exiles associated with the Christian Phalangists in Lebanon, reports that the three offices are located in East Beirut, in a residential building on 1 Sasin Street, behind the ("Hotel Dille") Hospital. Another branch is located in the resort town of Juniyah, while the third is on (Taberge) Beach.

The weekly says that car patrols of armed uniformed men are activated from these offices. The men check passports and identity cards of passengers arriving in Lebanon by sea.

The report adds that following the exposure of the Mossad agents, the Lebanese security services contacted the body "hosting" the Mossad agents in Beirut to determine who allowed them to return. The "hosting" body suggested to the inquirers that they let the matter drop. In reaction, the Lebanese security services decided to inform President al-Jumayyil of the return of the Israeli agents to his country.

Roni Milo Appointed Minorities Affairs Minister

TA081136 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Knesset Member Roni Milo has officially taken over as minister in charge of Israel's Arab, Druze, and Circassian communities. Milo's appointment took place in the wake of last week's resignation by Moshe Arens over the halting of the Lavi fighter's production. Voice of Israel's political reporter says Milo will now move into the offices vacated by Arens.

Justice Ministry Releases Full Indictment of Vanunu

TA040859 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 3 Sep 87

["The Following Is the Indictment of Mordekhay Vanunu, Released Today, 3 September 1987; Communicated by the Justice Ministry Spokesman" — GPO headline]

[Text]

The Accuser:

State of Israel
by the State Attorney's Office
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem

versus

The Accused:

Mordekhay, son of Shlomo, Vanunu
Born, 1954
I.D. No. 6841193
(At present in custody)

A. Statement of the facts:

1. The accused was employed at the Nuclear Research Center in the Negev, near Dimona (hereinafter: "NRC") as a technician and operator, from 2 November 1976 until 27 October 1985.

2. After the start of his employment, the accused took an operators course at NRC, and at its conclusion signed a declaration to maintain secrecy concerning his work at NRC, and was briefed accordingly by security officers at the site.

3. Also during his employment at NRC, the accused was briefed from time to time on the need to maintain secrecy about his work, and accordingly signed several declarations and commitments.

4. During the period of his employment at NRC, particularly since 1985, the accused collected, prepared, copied and held secret information — all without authorization to do so, and with the intent to harm state security.

5. a. The accused's activities, as noted in Section 4 above, found their expression in his visiting NRC's top secret wings, where entry and presence are prohibited to unauthorized persons, even among NRC personnel, the accused included.
b. In these units, the accused photographed various top secret items and facilities, and copied various details and lists from professional booklets whose contents and classification were secret.
c. The accused removed from NRC the information he collected, as specified above, without authorization to do so, and concealed it in his home.

6. The following is the information the accused collected, obtained, copied and held:
a. Information concerning the physical and organizational structure of NRC.
b. Information concerning classified developments made at NRC.
c. Classified work methods and production processes at NRC.
d. Code names for various secret developments at NRC.

7. As stated, on 27 October 1985 the accused concluded his work at NRC and on 19 Janunary 1986 left Israel and took with him the films that he shot at NRC, as well as handwritten notes on slips of paper which he wrote during and after collecting the above information, as specified above.

8. In May 1986, or close to that date, the accused arrived in Sydney, Australia, and some time afterward met a man named Guerrero, who presented himself as a journalist.

9. When the accused learned of Guerrero's occupation, he told him that he had worked at NRC and also provided him with secret information that he had learned about during his employment, as well as a portion of the secret information he collected,

as stated, including the photographs which he developed from the films he shot at NRC during his employment.

10. a. In Sydney, Australia, the accused also met with representatives of the London newspaper the *Sunday Times* (hereinafter: "the newspaper") and provided them with much top secret information, which he collected during his employment.

b. As noted, while providing the information to Guerrero and newspaper representatives, the accused intended to harm state security.

c. The accused transferred the above information knowing that it would be published by the newspaper, and that in this way it would reach the enemy, or that it would most likely reach the enemy. In doing so, the accused intended to assist the enemy in his war against Israel.

11. On 5 October 1986, the newspaper published an article entitled: "Revealed: Israel's Nuclear Arsenal."

12. As stated, much top secret information concerning NRC as provided by the accused was published in the article, including the photographs he shot and provided to the newspaper, as described above.

13. As noted, all the information that the accused collected, obtained, copied and prepared, as well as all the information published in the above-mentioned article, and obtained and transferred by him without authorization, is secret information under the law.

B. Provision of the Law Under Which the Accused Is Charged

1. Assisting the enemy in wartime: an offense according to Section 99 of the Penal Code, 1977.

2. Transfer of secret information with the intent of harming state security: an offense according to Section 113(a) of the above law.

3. Collection of secret information with the intent of harming state security: an offense according to Section 113(a) of the above law.

1987 Inflation Rate Forecast at 16 Precent

TA060740 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Sep 87 p 2

[Report by Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] The Bank of Israel has strongly recommended that the Treasury avoid raising the prices of subsidized goods and fees for government services by more than the rate of inflation. The central bank has made such recommendation as part of an effort to bring inflation down to single digit figures.

But Finance Minister Moshe Nisim is apparently resigned to inflation running at an annual rate of 15 to 20 per cent during the next few months. Last week he told *The Jerusalem Post* that it would take one year for inflation to go down to a rate of 1 per cent a month. He admitted that it was much more difficult to have inflation down from 20 per cent to a single digit figure than to bring it down from 400 to 20 per cent.

The heads of the Treasury and the Bank of Israel met last week and discussed economic forecasts for the rest of this year. The central bank now estimates that the gross domestic product of the business sector will rise by 5 per cent, and exports 9 per cent. Inflation is expected to total 16 per cent this year. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Interviewed on Gulf War, UN Initiative
LD061056 London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 6 Sep 87 p 2

[Defense correspondent Simon O'Dwyer-Russell: "Husayn Backs Gulf Truce"]

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has added his weight to the United Nations Security Council's call for Iran to accept a comprehensive cease-fire in the seven-year Gulf war.

"We must make it very clear to Iran that it cannot win this war and that wasting hundreds of thousands of lives is getting us nowhere," he said.

In an exclusive interview with the *Sunday Telegraph* in Amman last week, King Husayn described Resolution 598 calling for an immediate cease-fire as "the best means of ending the war that could have been achieved by the UN Security Council in view of the differing interests at stake in the Gulf."

He defended Iraq's resumption of attacks on Iranian shipping, saying: "If Iranian targets in the Gulf were to be excluded from Iraqi attack, Iran could then export more oil unhindered and translate that into weapons to continue the war."

The Arab League's pledge to break off diplomatic relations with Iran unless the Tehran regime accepts a cease-fire by September 20 is stubbornly supported by Husayn.

He insisted: "It is imperative the Arab world takes a very strong stand against Iran at this point in negotiations over a cease-fire. I will certainly support an Arab League break of relations with Iran."

The King described the American reflagging and escort of Kuwaiti ships through the Gulf as "a stop-gap", adding: "It cannot possibly be a long-term solution. That can only be found in an end to the war itself."

Husayn is engaged in an initiative to end the war, quite separate from the United Nations. It involves him in trying to bring a rapprochement between the embattled regime of Saddam Husayn in Iraq and Iran's staunch ally Syria.

He feels that if the UN cease-fire call fails, an improvement in relations between Iraq and Syria, perhaps leading to the end of Syrian support for Iran, could see an end to the war.

Though optimistic of the chances of an Iraq-Syria reconciliation, the king says: "Too much has happened over the years between the two and it will take some time and much work to bring them together."

Zayd al-Rifa'i Receives Saudi Interior Minister
JN081211 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office this morning His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi Arabian interior minister. Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani was also in attendance. They discussed the fraternal ties existing between the sisterly countries. The ministers also explored ways to further develop these ties in the mutual interests of the sisterly peoples. They discussed current Arab developments and ways to bolster Arab solidarity.

Also present at the meeting were the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, the Saudi ambassador to Jordan, the advisor of his highness the Saudi interior minister, the director of his office, and the Bedouin Police Force and Border Police commander.

The Jordanian and Saudi sides, led by their respective interior ministers, held an official round of talks at the Interior Ministry this morning. They discussed issues of mutual interest, as well as security cooperation between the sisterly countries. Representing the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, the director of public security, the acting under secretary at the Interior Ministry, the naturalization director, the assistant public security director for judicial police, the Bedouin Police Force and Border Police commander, and the director of naturalization and aliens affairs at the Interior Ministry.

For the Saudi side, the talks were attended by Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-Jammaz, adviser at the Interior Ministry; the head of the interior minister's office; and the Saudi ambassador in Amman.

Interior Minister Views Talks
LD082345 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1840 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Amman, 8 Sep (SPA) — His Royal Highness Amir Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of interior, has expressed satisfaction with and appreciation for the results of his talks with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan and with other senior Jordanian officials.

In a statement to SPA and Saudi radio and television correspondents, his royal highness said: My visit has been an opportunity to meet with His Majesty King Husayn and to extend to him a verbal message from his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques. In his turn his majesty gave me a message for his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques. His royal highness added that the meeting had been an opportunity to discuss important matters pertaining to our Arab world. I found that his majesty is deeply aware of all the Arab problems and is fully appreciative of the Kingdom, its people, its king, and its government. His royal highness said that the meeting was very useful. We beseech God to grant success to the custodian of the two holy mosques, to his brother, King Husayn, and to all the Arab leaders in carrying out all that the Arab and Islamic peoples expect from them; namely, the closing of ranks and the uniting of words in order to confront the dangers facing the Arab and the Islamic nations.

His royal highness explained that his talks with the Jordanian prime minister and the interior minister had dealt with bilateral relations in the light of the security agreements signed between the two countries.

He said that there is cooperation between the two fraternal countries which serves the security of them both; we are looking forward to establishing further such cooperation.

His Highness Prince Nayif added that Saudi Arabia would like and is working for the establishment of security cooperation with every Arab country. This is what has been achieved. The aim is to serve the Arab citizen in every field.

Responding to another question about cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Jordan in the field of combatting smuggling and narcotics, the minister of the interior said that this cooperation is good, taking into consideration that security along the borders between them is a joint and important issue. We ask God to spare our people all the evil dangers of this fierce plague.

The minister of the interior concluded his statement by saying that there are existing and continuous contacts with Jordan in view of our commitment to the security of our fraternal countries.

UK Weekly Details Syrian Role in Glass Escape
PM081041 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
26 Aug-1 Sep 87 pp 15, 16

["A.H." report: "Secret Meeting Paved Way for U.S. Journalist's Escape"]

[Excerpt] The kidnapping of U.S. journalist Charles Glass was different from that of the other 20-plus foreign hostages in Lebanon. First, it was the one and only kidnapping of a foreigner in West Beirut after the entry of Syrian forces. It was also a kind of direct defiance of the Syrian leadership — represented by Brigadier Ghazi Kan'an, chief of intelligence of Syrian forces in Lebanon — by the extremist Shi'ite leaders who control the fate of Beirut's southern suburb. They operate under various names and organizations, including Hizballah, the Islamic Jihad, and the Organization for the Defense of the Free People, which claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Charles Glass while he was on his way back from the south to Beirut along the main coast road near a checkpoint manned by Syrian forces.

Diplomatic information indicates that the storming of Beirut's southern suburb was discussed within the framework of recent Syrian contacts, after the Syrian entry into Beirut, between officials in Damascus and a number of visiting Western diplomats, foremost among them Vernon Walters, U.S. presidential envoy and Washington's ambassador to the United Nations. During these contacts, Western views revolved around Damascus' responsibility for the kidnappings carried out in its areas of influence in Lebanon and also around its role in controlling pro-Iranian armed organizations, especially in the area of Ba'labakk in the Al-Biqa'. This was on the grounds that Syrian forces had originally hesitated to enter the southern suburb when they returned to West Beirut because Iran's leaders and their men in Lebanon considered this suburb a "red line" to the Syrians. Diplomatic information obtained by *Al-Majallah* confirms that the Syrian forces' decision not to storm the suburb was made after discussions with a number of Western diplomats and after Damascus pointed out that storming the suburb might not be impossible militarily but it would be futile with regard to the release of hostages, since their kidnappers could easily kill them once they felt there was a plan to release them by force. Besides, storming the suburb, with its dense population, would result in destruction and civilian casualties, thus leading to increased sympathy with the forces currently in control of the area.

According to diplomatic information, Damascus expressed readiness to cooperate and exert pressure whenever possible to secure the release of foreign hostages, especially U.S. journalist Glass. Damascus must have had its own political motives in this, as well as a security motive concerning its forces' mission in Beirut. The political motives stemmed from the Western estrangement from Syria after Britain and the United States accused it of playing a role in "terrorist" acts.

Security sources in the Lebanese capital confirm in information exclusive to *Al-Majallah* that Glass' release was not an "escape," as claimed in his story. His exit from captivity, which took place in a building situated in the area of Bir al-'Abd in the southern suburb, occured 48 hours after a meeting described as "crucial" between Brigadier Ghazi Kan'an and 'Imad Mughniyah, one of the leaders currently controlling the fate of the suburb. 'Imad Mughniyah's name has often been associated with kidnap operations in West Beirut, the area of Al-Awza'i, and the road to Beirut International Airport, which seem to be near his areas of influence in the suburb.

Information indicates that this meeting lasted 4 hours and during it Brigadier Kan'an stressed one point: Glass must be released. He stated that this was a high-level decision from Damascus, not an appeal to the kidnappers; failure to respond to this decision would result in harmful consequences. Hence, arrangements were made to "smuggle" the journalist out so that his kidnappers would not fall into the hands of Syrian forces, thus avoiding the embarrassment that would have resulted from Washington demanding their extradition to stand trial. The story of the official Syrian news agency SANA confirms such details. It says: "The kidnappers wanted to appear as if they were not subjected to pressure from Syria to release the U.S. journalist."

What happened after the alleged escape of Glass confirms the information in connection with what is now known as the "deal" concluded to release him: The first thing Glass did was to call units of the Syrian forces to the "Summerland" Hotel (headquarters of these forces' command). Then he was received in Damascus, where he met Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who stated: "The kidnapping of Glass was unacceptable to Syrian officials. Everyone in Lebanon must realize that Syria insists on preserving security in West Beirut." Upon his return to London, Glass answered a question about the fate of other hostages in Lebanon by saying: "I believe Syria is capable of doing a great deal in this regard. There is an improvement in the political climate between the United States and Syria. Syria wishes to boost this climate further by showing more cooperation and going beyond these limits to resolve the problem of the hostages."

The day after Glass' release and his reunion with his family in London, it was announced in Washington that U.S. Ambassador in Damascus William Eagleton is to resume his position in the Syrian capital. He had been withdrawn in the wake of the Nizar Hindawi case and the accusations leveled at Syria at that time. U.S. officials were eager to stress that the resumption of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between Washington and Syria had nothing to do with Glass' release, and that this decision was made before the problem of U.S. journalist Glass was resolved. But this statement did not explain the "coincidence" of the announcement of the ambassador's return just one day after Glass' release.

European diplomatic sources are saying that the door has now been opened for positive developments in Syrian-U.S. relations and that Washington wishes to use Syria's influence, whether in Lebanon or Iran. The United States also takes into account the fact that the Syrians are eager to establish normal relations with the Western states in order to overcome the negative aspects of previous times.

As for the other hostages, whether U.S., French, British, West German, or other, Western sources stress that European governments have received guarantees that Syria will exert pressure in this regard. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces Command Council on 'Syrian Plan'

NC081651 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces Command Council following its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of Attorney Karim Paqraduni, Lebanese Forces deputy commander in chief, on 8 September]

[Text] 1. The Lebanese Forces Command Council discussed the visit of President Amin al-Jumayyil to Canada, his participation and speech at the Francophone Summit, and the interviews he granted to newspapers and television stations. The Council believes that in his speech and interviews the president expressed the Lebanese people's will to continue to exist, resist, and fight for their freedom and independence. He also expressed to the world public the Lebanese people's goal of getting rid of all occupation forces and rebuilding their intrinsic peace.

The Lebanese Forces support the president's stands and believe that his tour has corrected many distorted images. They urge the Arab and world public to understand the facts of the Lebanese situation and to deal with it on the basis that the free Lebanese will is manifested in the unity of the stand of the free Lebanese areas. This will has been expressed in the plan for liberating Lebanon from all foreign occupation forces as a natural prelude to its unification and reconstruction on a new, firm basis.

2. The Command Council referred to the series of meetings being held in Damascus and the occupied western part of Beirut — the latest of which was the meeting of the so-called Unification and Liberation Front — which decided to set up civilian bodies to run the affairs of the occupied Lebanese areas. Moreover, the conferees refused to make any move to reactivate the executive authority that is paralyzed as a result of the Syrian-imposed boycott policy.

The Lebanese Forces Command Council believes these decisions are part of the Syrian plan to bring down the constitutional and legitimate institutions and replace them with a civilian administration in the occupied Lebanese areas. This administration would come directly under the supervision of the Syrian occupation and would be completely under its control.

The goal of the Syrian plan at this stage is clear. It is to annex the occupied Lebanese areas and attach them to Syria. This is now being carried out through the implementation of the other aspect of the policy; that is, a paralysis of the legitimate institutions and official departments in the occupied areas and their replacement with organs of the Syrian occupation and administration under the pretext of dealing with the economic situation in these areas.

Biting off the institutions and annexing the land are the Syrian policy in Lebanon. The Unification and Liberation Front has begun implementing this policy, which will be consolidated when the so-called national conference — preparations for which are now under way — convenes. In light of this, the Lebanese Forces call on the Lebanese national leaders to frankly declare their position on what is being prepared, because the Syrian plan is making quick progress toward its goal. Silence on this plan means accepting the Syrian annexation of the occupied Lebanese areas. It is clear that Damascus, which has failed to control Lebanon as a result of the steadfastness of the free Lebanese areas, has started to annex the areas under its Army's occupation. Syria, which has prepared the plan for partitioning Lebanon, is working to annex large parts of Lebanon to its territory under the eyes of the Lebanese people and within their hearing, while the world remains a silent spectator.

In view of all this, the Lebanese Forces reassert that the liberation of Lebanon from the Syrian occupation and all foreign occupations is the right approach to safeguard the land, state, and people. They believe that biting off the institutions and annexing the land will not stop the economic disasters and tragedies. These will end only by the formation of a government that will work, make decisions, and rule. The Lebanese Forces appeal to all fraternal, friendly, and peace-loving states to work toward stopping the Syrian plan and ending the Lebanese crisis.

PSP Statement on Gulf, Israeli Raid, Al-Jumayyil

NC082004 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Statement issued by the PSP Political Bureau following its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of PSP leader Walid Junblatt, minister of public works, transport, and tourism, at the People's Palace in Bayt al-Din on 8 September]

[Excerpts] First, the Political Bureau discussed the escalating imperialist onslaught in the Gulf and the naval buildup there — which is aimed at terrorizing the Islamic revolution in Iran, keeping it at bay, and imposing direct imperialist hegemony over the region under the pretext of safeguarding essential sea-lanes. The PSP sees the imperialist move as posing an enormous danger to the region and calls for confronting the onslaught through solidarity among the area's nations and nationalist and Islamic forces. [passage omitted]

Second, the Political Bureau discussed Amin al-Jumayyil's participation in the recent Francophone Summit. Al-Jumayyil's trip, which took him even further away from the country's pressing problems, coincided with certain calls for reform and with [austerity] measures, the savings from which would not even match the funds needed to finance the trip. [passage omitted] Al-Jumayyil is responsible for the hunger in this country. It is not true, as he claimed in Canada, that he represents the Lebanese or that he is committed to resolving the social and economic problems of the country. [passage omitted]

Third, Al-Jumayyil's recent speeches and remarks betray his intention to classify certain Lebanese [as heard] and Arab nationalist forces as enemies by including them under the nomenclature: occupation forces. This again underlines Al-Jumayyil's animosity toward everything national or Arab and brings into sharp focus the racism which inspires his classification of the Lebanese and their political affiliations.

The Political Bureau emphasizes that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is legitimate and sanctioned by the Lebanese will. Likewise, the Palestinian presence is an integral part of the

resistance to the Zionist enemy and to its designs on Lebanon. In addition, Hizballah is a Lebanese party and is essential to the Lebanese national resistance and to the struggle against sectarian and social hegemony. Similarly, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards are friendly forces which assist the Lebanese national forces in defending the soil of Lebanon at a time when Al-Jumayyil's regime, party, and forces are conspiring against the country's sovereignty and independence. [passage omitted]

Fourth, the PSP Political Bureau discussed the significance of the bestial Israeli raid on the east side of Sidon. The destruction caused by the raid is a reminder of the systematic Israeli terrorism. Israel's continued attacks on Lebanon confirm its desire to undermine any attempt to reconcile the Lebanese and the Palestinians, as well as its intent to strengthen the isolationists' position vis-a-vis the nationalists. The Political Bureau stresses that there is a pressing need to unite the Lebanese and Palestinian fighters in order to confront the common threat of Israel.

Fifth, the Political Bureau discussed the decisions reached at the recent Unification and Liberation Front meeting, which concerned the formation of the front's organizational units. [passage omitted] The Political Bureau stressed the need for the speedy implementation of these decisions and expressed its constant readiness to work for unifying the nationalist movements and to boost the organization and rally the resources of the nationalist areas.

In this connection, the PSP will put forward a blueprint for a socioeconomic program at a press conference that will be held Thursday morning at the press syndicate offices. In this program, the PSP will spell out its views on how to deal with the crisis and will define the immediate tasks that should be addressed.

Sixth, the PSP Political Bureau deplores the renewed fighting between the two wings of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. Their fighting negatively affects the nationalist movement and unnecessarily taxes its resources. [passage omitted]

Seventh, it is with puzzlement that the Political Bureau witnesses the case of Prime Minister Rashid Karami's assassination being driven into oblivion amid silence by certain nationalist and Muslim figures. The lack of serious investigation into this case confirms that the regime and its institutions are directly involved in the assassination. A nationalist reaction to this involvement should be organized and should be commensurate with the magnitude of the crime and its political implications.

2 Killed, 30 Wounded in Tripoli Explosion

NC091100 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Excerpt] An explosion took place near the ABC stores in Al-Tall Square in Tripoli at midday today. According to initial reports, the blast killed 2 people and wounded 30 others. [passage omitted]

Syrians Arrest Arab Democratic Party Members

NC081736 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] According to security reports from the north, the Syrian forces have arrested approximately 100 members of the 'Ali 'Id group of the Arab Democratic Party in the Ba'l Muhsin area [of Tripoli] and interrogated them under torture. These Syrian measures follow on the heels of an incident that took place a few days ago, in which some party members beat up two Syrians.

In the meantime, the dispute continues in the form of clashes, which have been reported in the last few hours in the areas of Al-Qubbah, Al-Shari' al-Jadid, Sahat al-Najmah, and Harat al-Barraniyah.

Syrian Post Comes Under Fire From Shatila Camp

NC081615 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Tension reigned along the combat lines of the Shatila camp this afternoon after a Syrian occupation forces' position came under fire from inside the camp. The Syrians are demanding that those who fired the shots be turned over to them, but the Palestinian organizations are rejecting their demand.

Al-Asad Receives Returning U.S. Ambassador 8 Sep
JN081807 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has received William Eagleton, U.S. ambassador in Damascus, who handed him a letter from President Ronald Reagan. The letter dealt with ties between the Syrian Arab Republic and the United States, as well as other matters of mutual concern.

5 To Die for 'Misappropriating State Funds'
JN081817 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] The Syrian press said today that the Economic Security Court [mahkamat al-amn al-iqtisadi] in Damascus has passed the death sentence on five persons accused of misappropriating state funds, embezzlement, forging official documents, and accepting bribes. The court also sentenced 60 others, who were facing similar charges, to prison terms ranging from 6 months to life imprisonment with hard labor.

Cabinet Approves Dam Project With Jordan
JN071449 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] At a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm today, the Council of Ministers discussed current regional political developments. They also reviewed the positive outcome of the Syrian-Jordanian talks held in Amman and their contribution to promoting cooperation between the sisterly countries. The Cabinet heard a report from Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on Arab and international meetings and contacts.

The Cabinet approved the draft agreement concluded between Syria and Jordan on building the Al-Wahdah dam in the Al-Maqarin area of the Al-Yarmuk project, a vital and important economic facility furthering the one people of the sisterly countries. The Council of Ministers also approved a draft agreement concluded between Syria and the USSR on economic and technical cooperation in building the Tishrin hydroelectric station. When completed, this station should proudce 1.6 billion kilowatts of electricity. The Cabinet discussed the other sujects on its agenda as well.

Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Austria
LD041901 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Sep 87

[Text] Comrade 'Abdul Wakil, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs, during an official and friendly visit to the Republic of Austria yesterday met with Dr Thomas, secretary general of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, and exchanged views on bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest between the two countries.

At this meeting, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, Comrade 'Abdul Wakil explained in detail recent developments concerning the policy of national reconciliation and its gains, and issues relating to a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

Wakil, Pakistani Counterpart Open Geneva Talks
LD081935 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] The fourth phase of the seventh round of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan began yesterday in the Palace of Nations in Geneva with Diego Cordovez, envoy of the UN secretary general. The Afghan delegation is lead by Comrade 'Abdul Wakil, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and the DRA minister of foreign affairs, and the Pakistan delegation is lead by Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, minister of foreign affairs.

The talks concerned the main points of the solution to the situation around Afghanistan. These include the end of foreign armed interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, international guarantees that this interference will not be repeated, the return of Afghans living outside the country, and a determination of the time frame for the pullout from Afghanistan of the Soviet limited military contingent.

BAKHTAR Comments on Talks
LD090646 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Kabul, September 8, *Bakhtar* — The fourth phase of the seventh round of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan began in Geneva on September 7, with a special representative of the UNO secretary-general acting as an intermediary.

Despite the evasion and inertness shown by the Pakistani side on the previous occasions, talks for a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan are now on the threshold of reaching a final agreement as a result of persistent and flexible stand taken by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for accelerating the talks and her constructive, acceptable and peaceable initiatives as well as the indefatigable efforts made by the special envoy of the UN secretary general.

As a matter of fact, the frame of the documents for reaching agreement on issues that would constitute a political settlement has been prepared. And thanks to the flexible approach of the DRA, the stance of the two sides has been brought closer than in the previous phase of talks. A series of important issues, however, still remained unresolved. They are the problem of drawing Iran into the process of reaching a political solution in the region, a mechanism of assessment as the basis of agreement and setting up a time table for the withdrawal of limited Soviet military contingents from Afghanistan following the cessation of interference of imperialist forces in the internal affairs of the DRA.

According to objective logic and chronology of events in and around Afghanistan following the reactionary and imperialist interference from abroad in the internal affairs of the DRA, the cessation of interference and presentation of guarantee on its non-resumption constitute the key of any political settlement of issues around the country.

Any deviation from this logic naturally can not succeed in establishing peace and relaxing tension, which is the main objective of the talks.

As the prevailing situation testifies only peace, detente and achievement of good-neighbourliness are in the interest of both the countries as ignorance of one's interest and efforts made to disturb its security would also seriously affect the peace and security of the other side.

Notwithstanding the exploitation of the situation around Afghanistan so far it has now become clear than at any other time, that kindling fire in the neighbour's home and seeking profit from it is not a wise act.

If this fact is understood by Islamabad, a way from an undesirable past to a favourable futurewould certainly be paved.

Needless to say that the talks on unresolved issues on the agenda of Geneva talks would be successful and fruitful only when the Pakistani side gives positive response to the flexibility of the DRA, and in turn, honestly makes its contribution for achieving favourable results. Only in such a case, may one expect the present phase of talks to mark an important step for establishing stability and real peace in the region.

What makes the third and fourth phases of the talks different from the past is their simultaneousness with the proclamation and realisation of the policy of national reconciliation by the leadership of Afghanistan. It is a strategic initiative displayed to say farewell to war, establish nationwide peace and reach national compromise in Afghanistan.

These developments are a turning point that has unprecedentedly raised expectations from the outcome of current Geneva talks. Afghans, Pakistanis and all peace-loving forces of the region and the world wish for peace and stability. They want the creation of favourable international conditions through stopping imperialist interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and putting an end to the policy of creation of obstacles to the return of Afghan emigrants to their homeland. Provision of such favourable international conditions is the crux of any political settlement of situation around Afghanistan.

The U.S. Administration has not only not shown a positive reaction to the enforcement of the unilateral ceasefire by the leadership of Afghanistan, this strategic initiative for achieving

peace, since its proclamation but, on the contrary, it has intensified its anti-Afghan operations. Monetary allocations earmarked by the USA for financing the war and sending more modern arms for the extremists entrenched in Pakistan (who use them for prolonging war and rejecting the reconciliation) are a telling testimony that prove this. The USA is also resolved to keep Pakistan within the framework of its interventionist and bloody anti-Afghan policy. Therefore, Geneva talks are a real test for Pakistani Government's intentions either accept peaceable proposals and initiatives of the DRA based on the national interests of this country, or as in the past, remain in the frame of a policy that runs counter to the interests of all peoples and countries of the region while pleasing only those who are their real masters and puppeters.

When the important issues of peace is under discussion in any region of the world and talks are concluded for establishing and consolidating peace by relaxing tension and defusing war, particularly when there exist practical and acceptable initiatives for the success of such talks, the voice of firm support of peace-loving forces for the removal of resistance and obstacles created, by those who endeavour to sacrifice the interests of peoples to the benefit of their adventuristic ends, is of prime importance.

Under conditions when the leadership of Afghanistan has concentrated its efforts in national and international arenas for putting an end to war and bloodshed, establish peace and relaxing tension around Afghanistan, naturally the people of Afghanistan have a right to expect the active support of all peace-loving forces for this humane cause.

Najib Attends Air Force Party Conference

LD062019 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, took part today in the work of the party conference of the Air Force Political Department, which was held to elect their representatives to the nationwide PDPA conference.

Comrade Najib spoke on the process of implementing the national reconciliation policy in the country and the subsequent tasks of Air Force personnel.

In the first part of the conference, the political head of the Air Force presented a report on the ways to implement the national reconciliation policy and the subsequent duties of the organization and its party committee. Then a number of party members expressed their views on the speeches at the conference. They expressed their views and proposals on the relevant party organization in a democratic and free climate and expressed their full revolutionary readiness and in the spirit of self-sacrifice to work to the end of their lives toward the implementation of the national reconciliation policy.

The work of the first part of the conference ended with a resolution being issued.

In the second part of the conference, Comrade Najib was also unanimously elected as a representative from the party conference of the Political Department of the Air Force to the nationwide conference of the PDPA, based on a proposal by a number of representatives.

In addition, the conference elected its other representatives to the nationwide conference of the PDPA.

This afternoon in Delkoshah Palace Comrade Najib received a number of people from the Baraki area belonging to the fourth ward of Kabul City.

Comrade Najib, while receiving them, listened to their demands and difficulties and gave the necessary instructions to the party and state bodies in order to resolve the difficulties.

Comrade Najib also received a number of people individually at Delkoshah Palace today. Having listened to their requests and problems he gave instructions to the relevant bodies concerning their resolution.

PDPA Central Committee Politburo Session Held

LD071917 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] A regular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo has been held. The Politburo assessed further measures in connection with the socioeconomic growth of Qandahar City and Province.

The Politburo assigned specific tasks to relevant organs concerning meeting the basic needs of the people, drafting and executing the complex plan for the renewal and development of projects, controlling prices of foodstuff and primary goods, attracting activities of the private sector, and providing necessary assistance to private entrepreneurs of the Province and City of Qandahar. The Politburo endorsed the note of the leadership of the DRA Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education and of the party committee of the primary organization of that ministry concerning its readiness to dispatch work and construction brigades of the higher and vocational education establishments to Qandahar, which was presented to the session by the DRA minister of higher and vocational education.

The Politburo assessed the question of preparing for the nationwide conference of the PDPA concerning national reconciliation and approved a specific plan of measures in this regard.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo session considered the method of distribution of the goods in grant-in-aid of the Soviet Union and pointed out that the Soviet Union is giving considerable assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for distribution free of charge in order to maintain the [word indistict] needs of the country. In line with previous assistance, the Soviet Union will give economic assistance of a value of R260 million under an agreement dated 26 March, for primary goods which will be distributed free of charge to the needy.

The Politburo approved specific measures regarding the better organization of transportation and distribution of the goods in grant-in-aid from the Soviet Union. The Politburo considered the

question of taking extra measures to render practical assistance to Farah and Nimruz Provinces and approved specific measures for realizing the policy of national reconciliation and creating better foundations for peaceful work to speed up the process of the return of compatriots home.

The Politburo also assessed the distribution of relief goods in Helmand Province based on criticism by party members regarding the distribution of relief goods in Helmand Province, and pointed out that the party and state leadership in Helmand Province have shown an irresponsible and superficial approach in this matter, not only weakening their political and social influence but also causing dissatisfaction among the people, and have prepared the ground for abuses by some employees. Sixty-two tons of wheat have been sold to the peasant cooperatives in Helmand Province from the share of the province and of its four districts and the sum received has been expended unnecessarily.

The commission for the distribution of relief goods in Helmand Province had an irresponsible approach toward its duties and has not observed the demands of the joint resolution of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and of the DRA Council of Ministers. It has allowed formalism in identifying the deserving. As a result the poorest and most deserving families and people have been deprived of grant-in-aid. Attention for and protection of the families of martyrs of the revolution have been weak. Some of the responsible employees have committed serious violations in distributing grant-in-aid and have abused their positions.

The Politburo approved the following punishment for those party workers of Helmand Province who have shown an irresponsible approach in distributing relief goods:

Comrades Mohammad Esmail, secretary of the party provincial committee, and Aqa Gol Bawar, deputy head of the executive committee and head of the committee for the distribution of relief goods in Helmand Province, should be given the punishment of a warning, to be entered on their cards;

Comrades 'Abdul Baqi, deputy head of the party provincial committee, and 'Abdul Khaleq, head of the party control commission of the party provincial committee of Helmand Province, should be given a warning;

Comrades Muhammad Khan, secretary of the party committee and head of the commission for the distribution of relief goods in the District of (Sangin), Helmand Province, and Muhammad Masum, head of the organization section of the party committee of the District of Kajaki, should be demoted from full member of the PDPA to candidate member of the PDPA and relieved of their posts; and

Comrades Muhammad Ebrahim Meraban, head of Nad-e 'Ali District, and Gholam Hasan, head of the district and head of the commission for the distribution of relief goods in Nawah District, should be given the punishment of expulsion from the PDPA and be relieved of their posts.

The Politburo commissioned the party provincial committee of Helmand Province to observe the demands and guidelines of the joint resolution of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and of the DRA Council of Ministers on the mechanism for distributing primary goods and to prevent a repeat of the violations and shortcomings in the distribution of future allocations. It should give priority to the families of martyrs, the disabled and maimed on the path of the April revolution, and returnees and should take timely decisions to meet their needs.

Also, it has been noted that the DRA attorney general should make a legal assessement of the violation in distributing relief goods in Helmand Province.

The Politburo also discussed the second congress of DRA medical employees and approved a resolution in this regard.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo assessed the breaches of Comrade 'Abdul Qader Mal, deputy head of the *Bakhtar* committee, and agreed that he should be expelled from the PDPA because of the violation of the demands of the Politburo resolution on intensifying the campaign against the addiction to drugs and alcoholic drinks.

The Politburo also assessed a number of national and international issues.

Kawiani, Delegation Depart for Visit to Ethiopia

LD082116 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Comrade Najmoddin Kawiani, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, heading a DRA party and state delegation, today departed for Ethiopia at the invitation of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Ethiopia. The delegation is to take part in the inauguration of the Ethiopian National Assembly as well as to further consolidate mutual bilateral party relations and cooperation.

Comrade Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, candidate member of the Politburo, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and deputy head of the PDPA Central Committee Department of International Affairs, saw Comrade Kawiani and the accompanying delegation off.

BAKHTAR Political Observer Recalls U.S. 'Crimes'

LD070617 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] Kabul, September 6, *Bakhtar* — A political observer of *Bakhtar* writes:

Afghan people will not forget American crimes. Two years ago, on September 4, 1985, an American rocket brought down a civilian aircraft with 52 passengers, including children, 19 km off the Kandahar Airport in Afghanistan. The investigation revealed the involvement in this crime of the group of Charles Thornton, correspondent of the provincial U.S. daily *Arizona Republic*, [AR] including an AR news photographer and two U.S. physicians who had illegally penetrated into Afghanistan from Pakistan. It became known that one American filmed the firing of the rocket and the plane's fall.

The Thornton group stayed in Afghanistan 17 days. In a clash with a rival band, Thornton and another American were killed. It follows from the documents found on the site that Thornton had instructed the bandits to manage different weapons, including anti-aircraft rockets.

Although it was not the first American rocket fired at a civilian plane in Afghanistan, it will be remembered as the first irrefutable proof of direct American involvement in air terrorism against Afghan airlines. Through the mercenaries the Reagan administration destroyed it in coldblood. There was no noisy campaign in the Western press over this disreputable act. The U.S. press keeps mum as a rule over the mercenaries' crimes.

Terrorism against civilian Afghan aircraft was stepped up following the DRA's turn to national reconciliation in January 1987. The response of Washington to the peace proposals was an increase in aid to the Afghan terrorists to 630 million dollars annually and 600 Stinger anti-aircraft rockets.

Over the last six months, with reconciliation in process, four Afghan civilian aircraft have been downed in air terrorism and 135 passengers, 16 children among them, killed in all. Over the eight war years the counterrevolutionaries, armed on American tax-payers' money, have destroyed 2,700 schools and 300 mosques and killed more than 1,000 clergymen who were on the side of the people building a new life.

The people of Afghanistan will never forget the crimes committed by the USA. It can never break their will for freedom and independence. The Afghan people have a trusted friend in the Soviet Union, and they are confident of victory over the evil forces backed by the USA and its allies.

Kabul Comments on New Anti-DRA Radio Station

LD061017 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Sep 87

[Text] A TASS political commentator, reported by *The Washington Post*, writes that the so-called Free Afghanistan radio station, an anti-Afghanistan radio station sited in Munich, West Germany and financed by the United States, will begin its anti-Afghanistan propaganda from next Sunday [6 September].

And so another subversive radio station belonging to the CIA will begin its false propaganda. There are 11 transmitters belonging to such radio stations across the Afghan-Pakistan border in Pakistan's territory which broadcast false and slanderous reports against the DRA 24 hours a day.

Another radio station broadcasting in Pashto shows that the United States is continuing to expand its ideological aggression within the framework of the undeclared war. At present, 50 radio stations are waging false propaganda against the DRA. The total number of the broadcasting hours against Afghanistan reached 110 hours a day last year.

The spreading of lies, the distortion of the political decisions and measures of the DRA's revolutionary leadership, the slanders, and the alteration of the truth are great and are political instruments by which those opposed to Afghanistan's revolution and their patrons in Washington and other countries want to bring an atmosphere of turmoil to Afghanistan in order to frustrate the process of national reconciliation in our country.

The DRA's national reconciliation policy is a result of its peaceful and constructive initiative to end bloodshed in Afghanistan and to ensure peace; as a result of its implementation a very difficult problem will be eliminated in central Asia. This is not only in the interest of Afghanistan's people but it is also in the interest of all those who truly desire detente and an end to the situation.

Objective grounds are prepared for the democratic and patriotic forces to create an effective coalition capable of ensuring the normalization of the situation in Afghanistan and of resolving the great national problems.

But the United States, the great initiator and organizer of the undeclared war against the Afghan people, still refuses to take a new look at its anti-Afghanistan policy. It supports the feudalistic and reactionary forces inside and outside Afghanistan in order to impose on Afghanistan's people the ideas of those who prostrate themselves before and flatter the United States. Enough blood has been shed in Afghanistan already. Those opposed to the revolution resort to terrorist attacks on cities, villages, and localities. They set fire to buildings and shoot down civilian aircraft. By continuing their savage [word indistinct] they are trying to create fear in those people who have expressed support for the policy of national reconciliation. The counterrevolutionaries kill women, children, and old people.

The aim of the initiator and organizer of the undeclared war against Afghanistan in setting up another radio station in Munich broadcasting in the Pashto language is to show the crimes of Afghanistan's counterrevolutionaries as several times less than they really are and that the action of Washington and its allies is a good and humanitarian step in the fratricidal war on Afghan territory. That is why the lie-spreading radio stations such as VOA, the BBC, and Radio Free Europe are trying to distort public opinion.

It is worth mentioning that a training network for Afghan counterrevolutionaries has been set up and is expanding in order to assist the distortion and fabrication of the truth [word indistinct] in the United States.

There is proof that Washington has decided to intensify its campaign in the war against Afghanistan's people by using very savage ways and means and by using subversive reactionary forces.

Pakistani Party Leader Concludes Visit, Departs

LD060640 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] Kabul, September 5, *Bakhtar* — Marshal Asghar Khan, leader of Tehrik-e Istiqlal Party of Pakistan who was heading a high-ranking party delegation on a friendly visit to the DRA left for home on Friday.

Before departure to his homeland he took part at a luncheon given by the National Front's Provincial Council of Nangarhar Province in Turkham in his honour.

The delegation was seen off at the Kabul International Airport by Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of Central Council of the National Front of the DRA, Sarfaraz Mohmand, deputy foreign minister and other officials.

Tiwari Fetes Sri Lanka's de Mel, Assures Aid

BK090624 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] India has reiterated that it will provide all possible assistance to Sri Lanka in its gigantic task of reconstruction and return to the road of development. Speaking at a dinner hosted for his counterpart, Mr Ronnie de Mel, in New Delhi last night, the finance minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, said the current meeting of the Joint Economic Commission reflects the Indian commitment. It will place bilateral cooperation on a firm foundation. Mr Tiwari said the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement provides for a peaceful and just solution to various problems and underscored India's commitment to the well-being, unity, and integrity of Sri Lanka.

Reciprocating the sentiments, the Sri Lankan minister, Mr de Mel, reaffirmed his country's resolve to make the agreement a success. He expressed confidence that the difficulties in the way of its implementation would be overcome.

The two ministers will sign today an agreement on cooperation in the economic and technical fields.

Defense Minister Meets With Sri Lankan Official

BK081311 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] The chief of the Sri Lankan Joint Operations Command, General Cyril Ranatunga, called on the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, in New Delhi today. They discussed matters of mutual interest. General Ranatunga, who arrived in New Delhi last night, also held talks with the Indian defense officials on the implementation of the India-Sri Lanka agreement.

Feleiro Holds Talks With Visiting UK Secretary

BK041700 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Sep 87

[Text] The British home secretary, Mr Timothy Renton, now on a visit to New Delhi, today held wide-ranging discussions with the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Feleiro. The entire gamut of Indo-British relations was discussed.

Mr Feleiro said India appreciates some of the steps taken by Britain with regard to terrorist activities directed against this country. These steps should be further strengthened. He raised the question of high visa fee and also drew the attention to the problem faced by spouses in joining their husbands in UK.

Mr Renton said his government desires that areas of interactions between India and Britain are strengthened and upgraded. He congratulated India for the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement on solving the ethnic problem.

INDIAN EXPRESS Documents Reveal Irregularities

BK031602 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Sep 87

[Text] A preliminary scrutiny of the documents seized during the search of the *Indian Express* Group and its associate office premises indicate that the group had been operating unauthorized foreign accounts. The unpaid income tax arrears of the group in respect of completed assessment amounts to over 2 crore rupees. A spokesman of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence said in New Delhi today that the papers seized reveal that the group had paid a substantial amount of money to a foreign supplier from some unaccounted foreign source before opening any letter of credit. The income tax authorities are also trying to find out as how no wealth tax was ever paid on the Express Towers building belonging to the group, which is one of the important landmarks at the Nariman Point in Bombay. In the course of search, it was found that in one of the transactions carried out by the group in respect of a very valuable real estate in a prime location of Madras, there was suppression in the sale consideration to the tune of about 15 lakh rupees. The spokesman also said that there has been heavy under invoicing to evade customs duty. The extent of evasion so far amounts to about 33 lakh rupees.

EXPRESS Group Denies Accusation

BK041620 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Sep 87

[Text] The chairman of the *Indian Express* Group newspapers, Mr Ram Nath Goenka, has said the accusation that his organization is secretly operating foreign accounts is false. Commenting on the countrywide raids on the group's offices, he said he is ready to face any scrutiny. He however regretted that charges are being leveled against the *Indian Express* before the investigators have had a good look at the papers seized.

The Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India has condemned the raids. The All-India Small Newspapers Association said it is ridiculous to term the raids as an attack on the freedom of the press. It said newspapers, however big, are not above the law. The Paris-based International Federation of Newspaper Publishers has criticized the Government of India for the raids.

Notice Issued to EXPRESS Official

BK051254 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] The enforcement directorate of the Finance Ministry has issued a directive under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act to Mr Ram Nath Goenka of the *Express* Group of publications to give details of the arrangements under which he had arranged for an amount of 2 lakh dollars from one Dr Brainer.

Its spokesman said in New Delhi today that the directorate has taken cognizance of the admission by Mr Goenka in a statement published in the *Indian Express* today.

Violence Reported on 2d Day of Tripura Strike

BK081615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Normal life in Tripura continued to be disrupted on the 2d day today of the 48-hour bundh [strike]. In Agartala, police arrested 18 persons while picketting in front of the secretariat in violation of the prohibitory orders. The state chief secretary, Mr N. P. Navani, told All India Radio Agartala correspondent this evening that in another incident two persons were seriously injured while making bombs in their house. In South Tripura District, three persons were injured in a clash between two groups of political supporters.

The minister of state for communications, Mr Santopsh Mohan Dev, who recently visited Tripura, today apprised the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, of the law and order situation in the state.

Sikh High Priests Call for 'War of Liberation'

BK090730 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Amritsar, India, Sept 9 (AFP) — Four Sikh high priests Wednesday announced the unity of all Sikh separatist groups fighting for a homeland in Punjab and called upon Sikhs to support the militants' "war of liberation".

Sixteen militant groups in India and abroad have achieved "complete unity" to provide political leadership to Sikhs in place of the "discarded Akali leadership," the priests told a hurriedly-called news conference at the Golden Temple here.

They called upon the Sikh community "to openly come forward and support the militants fighting a decisive war of liberation of the Sikhs."

The announcement was made by priests Giani Jaswant Singh, Sawinder Singh, Kashmira Singh and Puran Singh, who however added that it was for the government to decide whether liberation meant a Sikh state within or outside India.

"It is futile to talk in terms of national unity and integrity when atrocities are being committed on Sikhs in Punjab and outside," Giani Jaswant Singh told reporters.

He added: "We want freedom. It is for the government to decide whether it (a Sikh state) should be in India or outside."

The priests said "no power on earth" would be able to prevent Sikh youths from achieving their declared goal of an independent state called Khalistan, or land of the pure, in the northern state of Punjab.

A formal announcement about the unity would be made by the Sikh militant groups soon, they added.

The 16 groups were known to include the Khalistan Commando Force, Khalistan Liberation Force, Babbar Khalsa and Bhindranwale Tiger Force.

Wednesday's announcement followed the voluntary "retirement" on August 6 by head priest Darshan Singh Ragi, who came under fire from Sikh militants for allegedly soft-pedalling the separatist campaign.

On August 17 the four priests had called on the militants to provide leadership for the 16-million-strong Sikh community in place of the Akali Dal, the Sikhs' traditional political party.

The Akali Dal was elected to power in Punjab in 1985, but dismissed last May by New Delhi for allegedly failing to tackle the campaign for a homeland in Punjab, in which nearly 1,300 people have died since 1986.

The attempts to unify the militants follow reports of infighting among the various groups, often resulting in arrests and capture of top Sikh separatists.

'Common Ground' Reportedly Reached in Gurkha Issue

BK050640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Sep 87

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, and the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, had a meeting in New Delhi. Later, Mr Buta Singh had separate talks with the NGLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front], Mr Sulehash Ghisingh. The meetings resulted in reaching a common ground on solving the problems of the people of Darjeeling hill areas. Mr Jyoti Basu also met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, before leaving for Calcutta.

Gurkha Leader Cited on Talks

BK051702 Hong Kong AFP in English 1648 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 5 (AFP) — A top Gurkha leader said Saturday New Delhi had agreed to grant citizenship to about 900,000 Gurkhas living in India, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported.

Sulehash Ghisingh, leader of an autonomy movement in the north-eastern hill district of Darjeeling in West Bengal State, made the remarks there after returning from talks in New Delhi, PTI said.

There was no official announcement here after the talks between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, officials of the West Bengal State government and Mr. Ghisingh and his colleagues from the Gurkha National Liberation Front (GNLF).

An Indian Government spokesman here said only that a "consensus" was reached at the talks.

Mr. Ghisingh did not elaborate on his claim of New Delhi deciding to grant citizenship to 900,000 Gurkhas.

Under the 1950 India-Nepal treaty, Indians and Nepalese can travel, work and live without hindrance in either country. The border is open and citizens are guaranteed all rights, except voting.

The GNLF has been demanding the removal of this clause in the treaty on the grounds that Nepalese of Indian origin could be bracketed with Nepalese from Nepal, leading to the denial of political rights to the former.

About 7.6 million Nepalese live in India, according to the West Bengal government, but only 600,000 of them in Darjeeling.

Mr. Ghisingh was quoted as saying the GNLF head dropped a demand for the inclusion of the Gurkha language among the constitutionally-listed Indian languages. He said none of the other GNLF demands was sorted out at the talks.

New Delhi has already rejected the demand for a separate Gurkhaland to be carved out of Darjeeling, which borders Nepal.

Newspapers said here Saturday the federal government had offered a regional council for Darjeeling with autonomous powers for Gurkhas.

More than 100 people have died in Darjeeling in violence related to the Gurkhaland campaign since May 1986. The militant Gurkhas say they are discriminated agianst in government jobs and in business.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Jet Shot Down

LD090509 Tehran IRNA in English 0504 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9, IRNA — An Iraqi jet fighter was shot down by anti-aircraft defence units of Iranian naval forces in the southern waters at 20:35 hours local time (17:05 GMT) Tuesday.

This was announced by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces today.

The fate of the pilot was not immediately known.

Second Jet Downed Near Arak

LD090851 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9, IRNA — An Iraqi jet fighter was shot down over the Iranian city Arak in Central Province at 09:55 hours local time (06:25 hours GMT) Wednesday, and crashed near the city.

Iraqi fighter bombers attacked an industiral unit in the city Wednesday at which two civilians were wounded.

Iraqi Planes Bomb 2 Cities

LD090909 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9, IRNA — In renewed Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities, Iraqi planes bombed residential and industrial quarters in Do Rud, Lorestan Province, and Dezful, Khuzestan Province, Wednesday morning.

A residential area and two industrial units in Do Rud and Dezful sustained damages. No report is yet available on the number of possible casualties.

Bombing Casualties Reported

LD091100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, planes from the warmongering Iraqi regime violated the airspace of Do Rud, Khorramabad, Dezful, Arak, Eslamabad-e Gharb, and Bakhtaran this morning and bombed several civilian targets. As a result of today's evil enemy action, several houses were destroyed in Do Rud and a number of our compatriots were either martyred or wounded. No information has been received about the damage inflicted on other towns attacked by enemy planes today. However, it is known that the attacks by the intruding Iraqi planes against the country's nonmilitary areas today have damaged several industrial units.

According to the latest reports received from Bakhtaran, 5 of our compatriots were martyred in that city and 25 others were wounded.

Iraqi Jet Downed Near Do Rud

LD091019 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9, IRNA — An Iraqi jet fighter was shot down over Do Rud, Lorestan Province, by surface-to-air fire at 10:06 hours local time (06:61 hours GMT) [as received] Wednesday, the second Iraqi war plane shot down by Iran Wednesday. Earlier on Wednesday a Mirage 2000 was shot down over Arak in Central Province at 06.25 hours GMT.

The fighter crashed near the city and search continues for the wreckage of the airplane and body or whereabouts of its pilot.

Iraqi Pilot Captured Unhurt

LD091703 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] The pilot of the Iraqi plane shot down this morning in Arak has been captured by the combatants of Islam. He is safe and unhurt. This pilot has introduced himself as 'Abbas 'Ayyash Husayn. According to the latest report at hand, during the course of a raid by Iraqi aircraft on the township of Arak, 1 of our compatriots was martyred and 14 others were injured.

Meanwhile, during the course of the Iraqi air raid on the township of Do Rud, 1 of our civilian compatriots was martyred and 36 others were injured.

Immediate Retaliation Announced

LD091118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] The War Information Headquarters has issued the following statement: In the wake of today's Iraqi attacks against residential areas and economic targets in Iran, the retaliatory operations of the fighters of Islam will be resumed with full intensity.

The text of this statement is as follows:

In His exalted name. By resuming its attacks on residential areas, as well as economic installations and naval targets in the Persian Gulf, the warmongering regime ruling over Iraq has intensified the policy of expanding the war and creating tension in the region. This policy is now the joint plan of Washington and Baghdad. By creating tension in the Persian Gulf, the United States and Iraq are determined to internationalize the war and to prevent Iran from achieving its legitimate rights in the face of the Iraqi aggression. The resumption or reduction of Iraqi attacks on tankers in the Persian Gulf and on economic targets of Iran is completely under the control of U.S. ruling circles.

The United States is angered by Iran's political successes. In an effort to put pressure on Iran and to engage in a psychological war against the Iranian people, the United States every so often incites the regime ruling over Baghdad to intensify or to reduce its attacks against Iranian installations and naval targets in the Persian Gulf and does not refrain from providing the rulers of Baghdad with military intelligence. However, one fact in the

Persian Gulf is certain: Whenever the Iraqi regime has reduced its attacks on oil tankers, cargo ships, and economic targets, security returns to the Persian Gulf and shipping resumes its normal state.

By relying upon its principled and legitimate positions, the Islamic Republic of Iran is against the expansion of the war and desires a lasting peace in the region. If it continues its holy defense against Iraqi aggression, then this is due to the fact that it regards the establishment of a lasting peace in the region to be meaningless and impractical without the punishment of the aggressive and tension-seeking Iraqi regime. As it has proved during the course of its 7-year resistance, the Muslim Iranian nation in the same way will neutralize any conspiracy against the Islamic revolution and any violation by foreigners against its Islamic land. Today this nation will not remain silent in the face of Baghdad-Washington plots but will give a crushing response to their provocations.

Within the context of Iran's retaliatory operations, the War Information Headquarters asks the Iraqi people to evacuate the places near Iraq's economic, industrial, and military installations as speedily as possible so that they may not be hurt in the course of the retaliatory operations undertaken by the fighters of Islam,operations which will begin within the next few hours with full intensity.

Prisoner on 'Fath-10' Losses

LD090916 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sept. 9, IRNA — Thirty-six Army bases were smashed in Iraq's Irbil and Kirkuk during the Fath-10 operations launched last Friday, said one of two officers captured during the operations Tuesday.

The officer added that military order of Iraqi forces were disturbed on tens of kilometers in the operational theater.

He said that commander of Iraq's First Corps was forced to ask for help from the center but the five dispatched battalions failed to compensate recent defeats.

Meanwhile, reports from Ramadan Operational Headquarters indicate that five battalions and company commanders of the Iraqi Army who had not resisted during Fath-10 operations were summoned to the First Corps Headquarters under guarded-protection.

Meanwhile, Iraq sustained 800 casualties in the operation while 185 Kalashnikov guns, three vehicles carrying munitions, several vehicles and other logistic facilities, clothing, foodstuffs and documents were seized at these bases by Muslim combatants.

Latest report from Ramadan Headquarters indicates that five vehicles and one personnel carrier were demolished and 15 Iraqis were killed or wounded during an ambush by Kurdish Peshmergas in Kofri [spelling as received] region in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province Monday night.

Peshmergas Kill 200 Soldiers

LD081635 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 8, IRNA — Peshmergas of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kordestan (PUK) attacked Shiresh district governorate, 20 kms east of Irbil on Sept. 4 and took over the town for 24 hours killing 200 Iraqi forces and capturing 50 others. The POW's were shifted behind the fronts to the liberated areas.

A group of the slain Iraqis belonged to the light Battalions 153 and 156. Hoseyn Ismail Ahmad, commander of 153rd light Battalion, as well as First Lieutenant 'Ali Kadam Husayn, Second Lieutenant Wasin Wasel-Badr and an intelligence officer Taha Hashemi were among the slain.

During the operations, 30 vehicles, three wireless system units, 250 semi-heavy and light arms as well as an armoured vehicle were seized intact.

Meanwhile, in an ambush along Sinkav-Chemchamal road, 11 Iraqi soldiers were killed and one of their vehicles was seized intact.

In another development, PUK Peshmergas attacked bases in Salman-Bak district on the Baghdad-Kirkuk highway, close to the Iraqi capital killing five Iraqi soldiers and capturing three others.

Navy Intercepts 12 Vessels

LD091614 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9 IRNA — An Iraqi Mirage jet fighter was shot down in Arak, Central Province, by anti-aircraft fire at 06:20 GMT Wednesday. The plane's pilot was captured. Another enemy warplane had been downed in the southern Iranian waters at 17:05 GMT Tuesday, said a military communique here today.

The 2954th Joint Staff Communique reported that Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected 12 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying goods for Iraq.

In the western fronts, several Iraqi soldiers were killed and 15 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts as well as two munitions dumps were destroyed by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in the southern fronts Tuesday, killing or wounding at least 10 enemy soldiers and destroying one munitions dump and several vehicles of theirs.

In Mehran, western fronts, Iraqi forces sustained heavy losses in men and equipment when enemy vehicle columns carrying personnel were shelled by Muslim combatants Tuesday.

Patrol convoys of Iranian forces successfully reconnoitered Iraqi positions and dealt effective blows on them throughout the battlefields yesterday before returning safely to bases. One of the

convoys captured three Iraqi soldiers during its mission, the communique concluded.

UK To Protect Netherlands Minesweepers in Gulf

LD081758 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] London, Sept. 8, IRNA — Britain's 'armilla' patrol of three warships will extend protection to Dutch mine hunters destined for the Persian Gulf, the Defence Ministry has said.

"Where Dutch mine hunters operate in close co-ordination with British Navy vessels, they avail benefit in the level of protection available to our own mine hunters," a spokesman told IRNA Tuesday.

The decision follows talks between British Defence Minister Ian Stewart [title as received] and his Dutch counterpart Wim van Eekelen in The Hague Monday, where it was announced two modern 'Alkmaar' class hunters would be dispatched to the Persian Gulf by October 1 for a period four months.

It is clear that the Dutch decision has nothing to do with the threat of mines in the Persian Gulf rather it is only part of Western pressure, led by the US, on Iran to accept an ignominous peace with Iraq.

Meanwhile it is expected that Belgium will soon announce its decision to send at least a number of mine hunters to the region.

Official British sources have said that they are in close diplomatic and military contact with the Belgians and a similar agreement for the protection of Belgian mine hunters by the British Navy could be reached.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said the extent of cooperation between the Western naval forces in the Persian Gulf was limited to general contact.

"But certainly there has not been any agreement or discussions about putting all the mine sweepers together in one massive, great operation," he added.

Britain and France have sent four and three mine hunters respectively and Italy has agreed in principle to send three mine hunting vessels.

According to *The Times* newspaper, the Netherlands had planned to send mine hunters when Britain reversed its decision to dispatch four of its own three weeks ago but delayed the announcement to reach agreement on protection.

The alternative of sending its own warships was said not to be practical in view that the Dutch Navy's 17 frigates are committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Defence pact alliance.

Commentary Views Netherlands, UK Gulf Moves

LD081725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1112 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Political commentary]

[Text] Following the extensive efforts made by Britain and France to expand the rank of arrogance in the Persian Gulf, the Netherlands Minister of Defense yesterday officially announced that his government intends to dispatch two of its minesweepers to the Persian Gulf region in the coming week for 4 to 5 months. Elsewhere in his remarks, he openly stated that the minesweepers will enjoy Britain's military protection and that, having welcomed the Netherlands decision, London is prepared to provide similar protection to other countries sending forces to the Persian Gulf.

Of some interest is the fact that, until a few days before implementing its plan to provide protection to Kuwaiti ships, the British Government was trying to pretend that the Thatcher government had no intention of sending any military force to the region and that it was determined to avoid getting embroiled in the issue. Within days of implementing the plan to provide protection to Kuwaiti vessels, however, the British ambassador in Kuwait announced in an interview his country's readiness to consider requests made by the Persian Gulf's littoral states, particularly the Kuwaiti Government, for British military protection. Despite the Thatcher government's extensive efforts to cover up Britain's active role in the Persian Gulf, it is now clear that approximately five Kuwaiti employed merchant vessels have already enjoyed British naval protection under various pretexts, including flying the Gibraltar flag or claiming British ownership. The Thatcher government has been trying to convey the idea that its decisions to protect Kuwaiti merchant ships were not governmental but simply commercial ones.

On the other hand, in line with its perennial policy of total adherence to Washington's demands, the Thatcher government has actively been trying to apply pressure on other Western governments, particularly those of the Netherlands and Italy, to build up a NATO military presence in the Persian Gulf as much as possible.

What is even more interesting is the fact that while the British Government attempts to justify its active role in the Persian Gulf through ludicrous reasons, such as the reference to commercial decisions, the Netherlands' defense minister is categorically announcing that in addition to providing military protection to the Netherlands' minesweepers, the British Government says that it is prepared to extend its military protection to other countries sending forces to the Persian Gulf.

To sum up: The Thatcher government, following its firm policy of adhering to Washington's demands and its commitment to support the Reagan administration's aggressive policies, has used its warships to protect five Kuwaiti ships and, by applying pressure on the other European countries and by offering military protection to other countries, is playing a considerable role toward supporting the Reagan administration's demands and expanding the rank of arrogance in the Persian Gulf region. Needless to say, London's application of this policy is not all that

unexpected. What is certain is that not a single one of these wicked attempts will remain hidden from the penetrating eyes of Muslim nations.

Musavi Urges Nonaligned To Protest NATO Presence

LD081918 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept 8, IRNA — The Indian ambassador to Tehran, Ramish Chandar Arora, conferred with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi here today.

In the meeting Musavi referring to the Persian Gulf developments and the global arrogance's intervention said that independent regional countries and the Non-Aligned Movement should protest the presence of NATO forces in the Persian Gulf, and their support for the Iraqi regime, which he said is the main regional issue.

In reply the Indian envoy said that his country is against the presence of foreign fleets in the region, and categorically opposes the putting of bases at the disposal of foreign powers by regional states.

Besharati on Perez de Cuellar, Hostages, USSR Ties

LD091139 Tehran IRNA in English 1124 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9, IRNA — The UN Secretary General Javier Peres de Cuellar is to arrive in Tehran Friday night, reported the English daily *Tehran Times* Wednesday quoting the acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

The paper quoted Besharati as having said "a formal invitation has already been extended to the UN chief for discussion on international issues."

"We have not imposed any preconditions for the talks and we have not accepted any limitations on any particular subject," *Tehran Times* quoted Besharati.

Perez de Ceullar will be visiting Tehran in connection with the UN Security Council's Resolution Number 598. He is also scheduled to visit Baghdad. The visit aims at finding ways of implementing the Security Council Resolution No. 598.

Tehran Times quoted Besharati as saying "we pay special respect to Mr. Perez de Cuellar and view his activities as positive, so we did not impose any preconditions for the talks nor did we argee to confine our talks to any particular subject."

On message of West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in which he thanked Iran for helping to secure freedom of German hostages in Lebanon, Besharati said "we used our influence to secure freedom of the German hostages because we are not in favor of taking hostages and our relations with West Germany are cordial." He said the Iranians do not know the kidnappers of the West German hostage.

He added we have our influence in Lebanon and the combatants of that country accept us... so we urged the freedom of both [as received] German hostages."

On Iran-Soviet relations, he said Iran shares a 2,500 kms long border with the U.S.S.R. and enjoys good relations with that country.

He told the paper "we believe the Soviet Union has adopted a rational stand in connection with the Persian Gulf crisis." "Iran views the Soviet stand in the Persian Gulf as a positive step," he added.

Besharati denied rumors that Iran and the U.S.S.R. were going to sign a friendship treaty.

As for Tehran-Paris ties, he criticised the policy of the French Socialists and said that they have waged the war of the embassies to tarnish relations between the two countries.

The present status of the Iran-France relations "should be reviwed within the framework of the discrepancies dominating the French side," he added.

As for dispatch of minespweepers to the Persian Gulf by some European countries including Italy and the Netherlands, he said "the presence of some 70 more warships and so much other war equipment in a small area such as the Persian Gulf is principally conducive to tension there."

Besharati described such moves as a mistake and said that these countries "fall into the abyss by clutching at the worn-out rope extended to them by the United States." Once there, he added, they will not have a way out, adding that the presence of those countries in the Persian Gulf was solely to support Saddam.

In conclusion Besharati said that Iran will not be the first one to pull the trigger of a war in the Persian Gulf. "But if we are shot at, we will set alight the entire Persian Gulf with all the belligerent powers in it." He added "such a move by those countries will undoubtedly leave an unfavourable impression on relations with Iran."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discusses Gulf With Envoys

LD072053 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] On 6 September Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, met with the heads of the representative offices of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Arab and African countries. In this meeting, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in connection with the manner of the operation of these representative officers, brought up certain issues and elaborated on the current situation in the Persian Gulf region, as well as in some of the countries located in this region.

In connection with Kuwait and the role played by that regime in supporting and assisting the warmongering regime of Iraq, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Kuwait has been helping the warmongering regime of Iraq which bombed the people and attacked

oil wells; but we were so patient. We tell them right now to announce their impartiality. Therefore, if Kuwait announces its impartiality even now, we will forgive its 7-year-long sins and so that we can be friends.

It is also accepted internationally that in case someone is a collaborator in the war, we have the right to avenge the abetters of the war. In this connection, what has been stated by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani can be studied from this angle that the foreign policy and the performance of the regime of Kuwait in the course of the 7 years of the imposition of war upon Iran by Iraq has been enjoying a cruel direction [as heard] and that this posturing has included grant of increasing aid to the regime of Iraq by Kuwait.

Of course, this issue can be explained this way that the Kuwaiti officials have never refrained from granting logistical, financial, as well as military aid to the regime of Saddam, though in their official posturing they claim to be impartial in the face of the imposed war. Bubiyan Island, as well as the Kuwaiti ports, have been at easy terms at the disposal of the regime of Iraq, and that regime with such facilities has inflicted its atrocities and aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Exploitation of oil and transfer of its petro-dollars to the account of the Baghdad rulers by Kuwait are no more a hidden secret.

Therefore, the joint collaboration between the regime of Kuwait and the Baghdad rulers is certain and needs no further explanation. But, of course, the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran vis-a-vis Kuwait has been constantly based on adopting the policy of patience with the hope that maybe the Kuwait officials come to know of their own mistakes and revise their stance. But attention should also be paid to this issue that the Islamic Republic of Iran will never permit others to take advantage of Iran's patience.

Meanwhile, parallel to the issues which have already been noted,it seems that the Kuwaiti officials have forgotten the threats and evil intentions of the regime ruling over Baghdad towards the soil of Kuwait and have forgotten history. Of course, it is possible that under the present circumstances coveting of the Kuwait soil by Ba'thists may have decreased due to the imposed war; but evidence and past record indicate that there still exists a problem.

In conclusion, this issue is once again noted that in case the Kuwaiti regime announces its impartiality, stops its support for the Iraqi regime, and proves its impartiality in practice, then the state of the imposed war will only entrap the Ba'thist warmongers.

Musavi Views Role of Foreign Presence in Gulf

LD081229 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, graduation ceremonies for the seventh class of Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee were held this morning in the presence of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. These ceremonies were also attended by Interior Minister Mohtashami; Minister of Housing and Urban Development Kazerumi; several members of the imam's household and Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's office; the imam's representative at the Gendarmerie; Serajaddin Musavi, the imam's representative and commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Committees; a group of commanders and officials from Islamic Revolution Committees throughout the country; and a group of clergymen.

The prime minister and his entourage inspected the units on the parade grounds. Following the oath-taking rituals by the committee guards, thousands of committee cadres and conscript guards of the committees who had passed the training course paraded in front of the podium.

During today's ceremonies, a group of combat units and chemical defense units of the Islamic Revolution Committees and a group of protection and security officers from the committees demonstrated their capabilities with regard to cleansing the environment from chemical pollution and ways to create immunity.

Sarajaddin Musavi, the imam's representative and commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Committees, presented a report explaining the duties and achievements of the committees in the imposed war, as well as current anti-narcotics operations, the struggle against wrongdoing and the restoration of security, and reaffirming the readiness of the committees to deal more severely with narcotics smugglers and addicts, including their detention. He requested that the legal responsibilities of the committees and their method of approach be more precisely defined in these fields. He also asked the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to offer great assistance to the committees in order to enable this organization to construct and complete the building of training garrisons and executive premises.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi then made a speech in which he said: The military presence of the West and the support of these countries for the Iraqi regime will not save Saddam's government.

Speaking about the objectives of the arrogant powers with their presence in the region, the prime minister stressed: Our nation has no hesitation in pursuing the aspirations of the Islamic revolution; the moves of enemies of the revolution in the region will not create any panic. Saddam's government will be buried in the waves rising from our nation, and the world will not be able to protect this dictator. The last word of the war will be said by the revolutionary and determined forces.

The prime minister added: One of the objectives of the United States and the West in their presence in the Persian Gulf is to support and protect the Iraqi regime and to impose peace on Iran. The United States intends to show the world that the Islamic revolution has not been a successful experience. However, we declare that the more they exert pressure upon us, the nearer the revolution will come to victory for we intend to win the hearts of nations and not to dominate them.

Mr Musavi added that another objective behind the unparalled presence of the foreign fleets in the region is to protect the reactionary regimes; but the accomplices of arrogance have become more vulnerable by this presence. Through this action,

global arrogance has sown the seeds of revolt among the people of the region and against their rulers, and with their own hands they have prepared the grounds for the destruction of their interests.

In another part of his remarks, the prime minister referred to the problem of narcotics and wrongdoing, stressing the need for resolving this social problem. He said: We must struggle against such sinister acts, which are one of the conspiracies of foreign powers against the revolution in an effort to ruin our future generations.

Karrubi, Khomeyni Exchange Letters on Hajj

LD091557 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, representative of the Imam and the supervisor of Iranian pilgrims, sent a letter to the imam of the ummah asking his holiness about the investigation of the affairs of the hajj pilgrims. The text of the letter is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

To the great leader of the Islamic revolution, esteemed supreme leader of the world of Islam, his holiness Imam Khomeyni; may his exalted shadow long continue.

I express my greetings and respect to the presence of your holiness and my profuse thanks to the beloved Iranian pilgrims who, in their love for Islam and in pursuance of the binding orders of the illustrious leader in the course of the hajj ceremonies, especially after the bloody incident in holy Mecca, with firm resolve, indescribable determination, and complete devotion were prepared for any self-sacrifice for the sake of protecting Islam and the life-giving injunctions of the holy Koran, express my appreciation for those involved in the hajj affairs who this year accepted great hardships in the course of the hajj pilgrimage.

I hereby wish to bring it to the notice of the beloved imam that each year after the completion of the hajj ceremonies I seek permission from your holiness to continue my duties. Therefore, in view of the fact that the annual programs for hajj should start from now, the esteemed leader is requested to issue relevant orders. May Almighty God safeguard the blissful life of the illustrious imam until the advent of the hidden imam — may God hasten his advent, for all Muslims and the oppressed people of the Islamic world, and may He protect Muslims and the oppressed from the evil of the enemies of Islam and humanity, especially the arch satan, the United States.

[Signed] Mehdi Karrubi.

The text of the response of the Imam of the ummah to the letter from Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi reads as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Your excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, may your blessings continue.

After expressing my thanks for the Islamic and indescribable resistance of the wronged and esteemed pilgrims to the holy house of God against the attacks of Al Sa'ud, these black-faced ones of history and blind and deaf agents of the world-devouring United States, express my appreciation for your excellency's committed and brave resistance. Despite the fact that you were caught in the blood-dripping claws of Al Sa'ud, with your fiery messages and interviews you removed the veil from the ugly face of these criminals of history and beat the drum of the unforgettable disgrace of the criminal United States and its evil agents. As in previous years I reappoint your excellency who, thanks be to God, is in the first rank of the strugglers of Islam, as my representative and supervisor of the pilgrims to the holy house of God. The historical crime of violating the respect of the safe house of God, which set fire to the hearts of the world's committed Muslims, something no one can ever forget or remain silent over.

I hereby wish to express my thanks for the efforts of all the officials in charge of the hajj and to his excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Imam-Jamarani, who with his steadfastness and commitment was the source of pride for the Islamic Republic of Iran. He brought joy to the hearts of the martyrs, and beseeched God Almighty to grant greater success to all in serving Islam and its lumimous teachings. I pray for the precious martyrs of our blood-stained Mecca, who by offering their blood raised the red banner of monotheism, prophecy, and imamate both in the sky and on the earth. I beseech God to bestow patience and regard to their families, who have attained a great honor.

God's peace and blessing be upon you.

[Dated] 9 September 1987

[Signed] Ruhollah Al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on Mecca, Gulf

PM041355 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 87 p 19

[Reprint of interview with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani by English language daily *Tehran Times*; date and place not given]

[Text] [*Tehran Times*] How do you view Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia following the Al Sa'ud crimes in Mecca and the important speech by the Imam? Have any countries volunteered to mediate? What is the policy for sending pilgrims to Mecca next year?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Naturally I think the future of our relations looks bleak. How can one get close to someone whose hands are bloodied with the blood of hundreds of the Lord's guests and pilgrims? This is very difficult. Of course our policy was never aimed at clashing with Saudi Arabia. We were contemplating peaceful coexistence with these people, especially after the war, so that we could work in the region. But from now on I do not have much hope for relations becoming close. There have been some people who have come, especially from two regional countries, and said: Do not let the relations get any worse. But they came here and they saw how angry our people and our officials are — of course they have every right to be angry — and they

saw that they could not raise the subject and they were even a little ashamed that they had raised the subject in the first place. There were also others who sent messages from far away.

With regard to our policy for sending pilgrims next year, I must say that the people must go to Mecca; this is a religious duty for every human being. We insist on carrying out the duty that we had during the hajj, which was to denounce heretics. Of course it is too early to see what will happen in terms of the situation that Saudi Arabia has now. They have said that they will not stop Iranian pilgrims, but of course they committed this great crime in order to prevent those constructive demonstrations. Their aim is not limited to 1 year, unless we make them regret the incident. If we make them regret this wrong that they have done, then perhaps the way would be opened for our policies. We cannot predict too much now. What can be predicted now is that we are determined to continue with our policy of mixing politics with hajj and to carry out our religious duties.

[*Tehran Times*] These are sensitive times in the Persian Gulf. The United States has deployed its strongest fleet in one area since the Vietnam war, and it seems that all parties concerned — at least in words — want to see less tension. Is the Islamic Republic of Iran willing to sign a treaty with the Persian Gulf countries, the United States, and the Soviet Union to safeguard shipping in the Persian Gulf?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Why do you bring up the Soviet Union and the United States? We are ready to sign with the regional countries, meaning of course, those who are not party to the war against us. We have so far received messages from two or three sources from the Kuwaitis saying: We are ready to withdraw our requests to the United States on condition that you do not hit us. We have told them we will not hit them if they do not help. If you do not help Iraq, even if the United States puts its flag on your ships, we will not hit you. Of course we are against the American flag, but if they announce neutrality we agree not to hit back even if Iraq attacks us — we have announced these things. There is nothing wrong with a treaty. Of course a treaty with the superpowers is meaningless. Why should they be present?

[*Tehran Times*] On the one hand Iraq has been placed in a weak position, on the other hand there have been a series of plots against the Islamic Republic within the past 2 months. What programs do you have to finish off the war?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I have said many times that if we want a quick end to the war we must mobilize the country's entire resources in order to coordinate a long and widespread offensive. Another solution is to continue this ordinary situation the way it is. Perhaps there is a third way between the two which would mean lessening the facilities for the public and giving more to the war.

[*Tehran Times*] If the United States invades Iran or occupies part of our soil, would Iran get help from the Soviet Union to kick the Americans out? This question is based on parts 5 and 6 of a 1921 agreement between the Soviet Union and Iran which the Revolutionary Council declared null and void but which the Soviets claim to be valid.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I think it seems very unlikely that this would happen. The Americans alone cannot occupy any part of our soil. Of course, if this happens we can throw them out without any outside help. The Americans can perhaps hit us from long distances with a missile or by air, but they cannot come onto our soil. If this happens, it would create a huge military victory for us and this is an honor that we want to keep for ourselves. We do not want to share it with anyone else.

The agreement that you mentioned has been declared null and void as far as we are concerned. Under the present circumstances I think we will not need to ask the Soviets.

[*Tehran Times*] Have factions within the U.S. Adminstration tried to establish contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran to remove the differences between the United States and Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, they have brought one or two messages so far, and some of the regional countries who are friendly with the United States have given us some messages and have come up with proposals for us to resolve our differences. Of course there have been no reasonable suggestions in these and we think they are just a kind of trick to catch us off guard. We see no goodwill in them.

I think if the Americans are sincere and if they act in a sincere manner, it is not as if the ice between us will never be broken. It will begin to melt. The situation now is that things are getting darker all the time because there is hostility. They say something, we say something. They do something, and we are forced to do something else. Neither is taking a step toward better relations. At present relations are going on the road to getting darker.

The Americans started the hostility and they are responsible for the darkening relations. They should stop this hostility — of course this does not involve us alone, and the Americans will have to change their policies in the region. The Americans should stop their hostility toward the Muslims in the area, stop forcing the Arabs to distance themselves from the goal of liberating Palestine.

[*Tehran Times*] It was heard recently that a sentence had been passed by the prosecutor general on Ahmad Kashani, who was a Majlis deputy. Is this true?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] With regard to Mr Kashani, I saw the court order that they sent. He was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment.

Proximity Talks With DRA Open in Geneva

BK080416 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Pakistan and the Kabul regime resumed their indirect talks on Afghanistan in Geneva yesterday evening. The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, held separate meetings with two delegations. The Pakistani delegation was led by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who was also accompanied by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani. The Kabul regime delegation was headed by 'Abdul Wakil.

A Pakistani delegation spokesman said that the talks mainly reviewed the respective positions the two delegations had taken at the last round of talks in March this year. Later, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Zain Noorani had an informal meeting with Cordovez. It has been learned that the important question relating to the interim arrangements for facilitating the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was discussed. Cordovez and 'Abdul Wakil are also understood to have had an informal discussion on this question. The talks will resume today.

DRA Fails To Set Withdrawal Time

BK090309 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] At the indirect talks on Afghanistan now being held in Geneva, the Kabul regime representatives have failed to present a short timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from their country. The talks are scheduled to end today.

According to the *Associated Press of Pakistan*, well-informed observers believe that the Kabul regime had proposed the current round of talks only to use them as part of their propaganda about their peaceful intentions before the upcoming UN General Assembly session and to mar and stalemate the process of the negotiations. Since the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979, the issue of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops has remained a major obstacle in settling the Afghanistan problem. The timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops is the most important point of the comprehensive agreement which also includes three other points: namely, noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan; U.S. and Soviet guarantees for a settlement; and the return of about 5 million Afghan refugees. These three points have, to a great extent, been resolved.

Belgian Foreign Minister Arrives in Islamabad

BK090719 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] The Belgian foreign minister, Mr Leo Tindemans, has said his country wants to improve its economic relations with Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this evening on arrival from Karachi, he said many proposals and projects, which were negotiated during the visit of the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, to Belgium, will now be reviewed and finalized.

Minister on Indian Line of Control Violations

BK081605 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Excerpts] The National Assembly today dealt with nonofficial business. The House passed a resolution urging the government to take appropriate steps to deal with increasing traffic accidents on the national highways. [passage omitted]

The House was informed during the question hour that the Indian troops committed eight ground violations of the Line of Control in the Narkial sector from March to June this year. Minister of State Rana Naim Mahmud Khan said that the Indian forces, violating the Simla Accord, intervened in the Siachen Glacier area. Pakistani forces were deployed in the area in April 1984 to check further intervention by Indian forces. The Pakistani forces are effectively responding to Indian provocations. The minister of state said that two rounds of talks at the defense secretary level between Pakistan and India have been held to settle the matter peacefully. The two sides agreed to continue the talks to find a mutually acceptable solution to the problem.

The House session will resume at 1000 tomorrow morning.

Delhi: Border Committee Meeting Held in Lahore

BK081648 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] The first meeting of the India-Pakistan joint committee to frame fresh guidelines for checking border crimes began in Lahore today. The guidelines are to be framed to check smuggling, drugs trafficking, illicit arms, and terrorism. The committee was set up after a meeting of home secretaries of the two countries in December last.

Government Imposes Nationwide Security Alert

BK090336 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has imposed a nationwide security alert following the discovery of a plot by an outlawed political group to attack police stations in various parts of the country. According to police officials, the group behind the plot is the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna, a former political party which is now banned.

Meanwhile, four Catholic priests were killed and three other clergymen injured in incidents of violence at Uduvil in Jaffna peninsula and in the northern district town of Vavuniya. Reports say the seven priests were shot by unidentified gunmen as they were coming out of their church late in the night on Monday [7 September].

Alert Repeated to Police

BK090650 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0640 GMT 9 Sep 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 09 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The Inspector-General of Police Cyril Herath yesterday repeated an earlier alert to all police divisions calling for maximum security measures to thwart a plot to assassinate members of the cabinet and government MPs countrywide.

The alert was repeated after two attempts had already been recorded — one was nipped in the bud at Wadduwa on the night of Saturday-Sunday last weekend and the other was made at Minuwangoda.

One person died and another was critically injured in the Minuwangoda incident in which Mahesh Gunasekera, a son of the Minuwangoda MP, was among four hurt when a lone gunman armed with an automatic opened fire on his home.

Maximum security measures taken by police during the last few days have also led to the detection at Kahatuduwa on Monday afternoon of two assault rifles and a quantity of ammunition and dynamite being transported in a passenger wagon by two young men. The young men, a Sinhalese and a Tamil, were arrested.

20 Reported Dead in Intra-Tamil Clashes

BK081625 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force will give all assistance and necessary protection to people of various communities who wish to go back to their original habitats in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of the island. A spokesman of the Indian High Commission told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that the Sri Lankan Government has assured that its forces will fully cooperate in this task. The Joint Operations Command chief, General Ranatunge, has assured the Indian High Commission that no new settlements of Sinhalese are being carried out in these areas.

Meanwhile, the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, called on the Sri Lankan president last evening and apprised him of the progress nmade during the second round of talks held in New Delhi on the powers of the proposed provincial council for the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

The death toll in the clashes between two Tamil groups in the last 4 days has risen to 20.

Death Toll Rises to 30

BK090845 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0757 GMT 9 Sep 87

["OANA/pool" item]]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 9 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The Indian peacekeeping force are making all out efforts to curb the gang war between rival terrorist groups in then north and east.

The internecine gang war among rival terrorist factions has already claimed about 30 lives in northern Sri Lanka.

Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that 8 more deaths were reported to police headquarters in Colombo this morning.

A report from the Vavuniya police states that the seven bullet riddled bodies had been found at Perayanayar Kulam on the Medawachiya-Vavuniya road.

Meanwhile a spokeswoman for the Indian High Commission in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that whatever could be done in terms of the peace accord will be done by the Indian peacekeeping force (to stop the clashes between the rival terrorists factions).

She said "We are trying to do whatever we can".

The Indian peace-keeping force was speaking to the LTTE, citizens groups and other organizations (in order to stop the violence).

In another incident the LTTE was reported to have attacked a PLOTE [Peoples Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] camp at Periyathampanai.

Opposition Leader Criticizes Peace Accord

BK051536 Colombo SUN in English 21 Aug 87 p 3

[Statement by opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike; date and place not given]

[Text] Anura Bandaranaike: Leader of the Opposition:

We stand horrified at what happened at the Government Parliamentary Group on Tuesday August 18. I would like to express our heartfelt sorrow at the attempt on the lives of the members

who were present therein. If the government is so convinced that what you are doing is right in your peace accord, why don't you test it by holding a referendum for the people? This is the only morally correct way.

Who is responsible for the violence that is recurring in our country? Don't blame the JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] for everything. Look nearer your own home rather than blame JVP scrapegoats at every turn.

When you say southern terrorists have you also forgotten the fact that the terrorists have not yet accepted the accord? Are the memories of the UNP so weak? Have you forgotten the Pettah bomb blast? Are these all forgotten now that the Jayewardene-Gandhi peace accord has been signed? You are saying peace has been achieved. But the terrorists have been buying polythene in large quantities in the north. What is this peace? Do you think they have surrendered or will surrender all their arms?

Is there any agreement with regard to the members of Indian troops that should come here? And about the time they should leave the country? There is nothing in the accord about this. In India, Natwar Singh has said that they have a contingency plan if the accord is not implemented here.

Then again Prabhakaran says that he has been given a number of guarantees by the Government of India. Has this been done with the concurrence of our government?

Prabhakaran is our citizen. He cannot be given assurances by the Indian Government. Without our consent, three Indian frigates are anchored off Colombo now. Mr. Dixit who is acting like Sri Lanka's viceroy says that the Indian navy was here to protect him. Why should they be here at all?

India has done the same thing to Bhutan, to Sikkim. But in Sri Lanka, for the first time they were invited to do so. This accord is between two men and two governments. Not between the Sinhalese and Tamils.

This is what is wrong. We are not against peace. If we are ignorant, it is not because we lack brains but because the knowledge is being kept from us. Not only from us, but from members of their own Government.

There has been a recent opinion poll held by a country which had supported the recent accord and found that 90 percent of the people in Sri Lanka are against the accord. This is what the poll has ascertained. And what about the armed forces of this country? They have been dismissed abruptly and no gratitude has been shown to them.

There is a current witch hunt that some politicos are indulging in at the moment. Why is this on? I still cannot use my telephone. There are commandos outside our houses. Two of the SLFP Southern organisers were taken in for interrogation.

It would be interesting to note that the CID [Criminal Investigation Department] had been questioning them about the activities of the prime minister.

The people of this country, both those who support and oppose the accord should be allowed to express their views. You can't force this sort of an agreement down the throats of the people.

Over 16,000 Mines Removed in North, East Provinces

BK061323 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, over 16,000 mines have been removed in Northern and Eastern Provinces so far. The task was carried out by the LTTE, Sri Lankan forces, and the peace-keeping force separately. The All India Radio correspondent, Sabastian Roberts, reports from Jaffna that a complaint cell has been opened at the headquarters of the peace-keeping force at Pallali to trace missing persons, release of detenues, and recovery of lost properties. Our correspondent adds that, in all, over 2,000 Tamil detenues have been released and rest are expected to be released by the end of this month.

Foreign Minister Meets With Iranian Official

LD051534 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 5, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry Director-General for Asia and Oceania Ebrahim Rahimpour met Sri Lankan Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed in Colombo Friday and submitted him a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During the meeting, Rahimpour briefed the Sri Lankan foreign minister on the latest developments in the Iraqi-imposed war, the presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf and the July 31 massacre of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca by Saudi police.

The Sri Lankan foreign minister, expressing satisfaction at the healthy Tehran-Colombo ties, said that his country had voiced support for Iran's justified stance on the Iraqi-imposed war several times.

He said that Iran can play a key role in the Third World and the Persian Gulf region because of its huge underground resources, committed people and above all its Islamic government.